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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 1, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the cornerstones of my lifetime of public service has been to work on bipartisanship. I have a long record of working with Republican Governors and Senators back home in Oregon. Here in Congress, every major initiative I've advanced has been working to engage bipartisan sponsors and finding ways that bring people together rather than divide them.

But here in Congress, under the Republican leadership, I must say, it has been difficult, if not impossible. For example, there's been a claim that Republicans want to repeal and replace ObamaCare. They've never indicated a hint of how they would replace the Affordable Care Act and protect its most important provisions. They cannot say how they would produce a health care plan that would eliminate the stark specter of medical bankruptcy, which, under the Affordable Care Act, Americans no longer have to fear. They have no plan to protect families from being denied health insurance because of pre-existing conditions and eliminate the pernicious lifetime limits which penalize families in the most desperate and tragic of circumstances.

Now we're in the middle of their manufactured crisis of a government shutdown, and they risk a meltdown of the global economy by threatening America will not pay its bills on the national debt.

There are three simple steps my Republican friends could take to prove they're serious and not cynical:

First of all, Republicans campaigned the breadth of this country against the ACA, but they have included in their budget over a half trillion dollars in savings under the act and all of the revenues from the taxes. If they are serious and not cynical, they will remove that money from their budget and show what other services they would cut or taxes they would raise to make up for it.

If they are serious and not cynical, they would bring their own spending bills to the floor for their members' vote. Remember, we still have pending the Transportation-HUD spending bill. On July 30, they just stopped in the middle of deliberations because they figured out that the bill was so bad that their own members wouldn't even vote for it.

If they are serious and not cynical about their spending plan, they ought

to allow their members to vote on their own spending bills, see if there's any more support today than there was 3 months ago. Then bring the Interior spending bill to the floor, which has been in committee limbo. The showstopper will be Labor, Health, and Human Services. If they're serious and not cynical, they will have recorded votes to show the American public what they really believe in.

Last night, I was stunned that the final stunt in their "let's-make-a-deal, made-for-TV semireality show" was to demand a conference committee be appointed. They want a conference committee on a bill that has already been law for 3 years that the American health care industry and local government have spent billions of dollars to be ready to implement, which goes into effect today.

If you're serious about working on a cooperative basis and negotiating differences and want to have a conference committee, why don't you appoint a conference committee on the budget? The Senate and the House have both approved budgets, and the Republicans have refused to appoint conferees so that people can work together to resolve these differences. That is a pending item right now. It's ready to go.

It's interesting. We had a jaw-dropping moment in the Budget Committee last week when my friend, Chairman PAUL RYAN, said the reason they would not appoint conferees is because there might be too many motions to instruct. My goodness, the House might express its will and not be tightly controlled?

We're in the midst of a manufactured government shutdown crisis with a looming disaster if they throw a tantrum that would prevent Americans from paying their bills. Republicans can prove that they are serious and not cynical by not using the health care reform savings to fund their budget, bringing their own spending bills to the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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floor and allowing them to be voted on, and then having a conference committee not on a law that is 3 years old, but on a pending item between the House and the Senate: the budget. Sooner or later, the system ought to be allowed to work.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this shutdown should not have happened. The Framers of our Constitution designed our system to have tension and differences between the two houses of Congress—that's a given. But after the House and Senate have exercised their best judgment, they are then supposed to sit down and negotiate out their differences. This is the way our bicameral system has worked for 225 years. It is the only way that it can work.

That hasn't happened this time. This time the House proposed a compromise nearly 2 weeks ago to keep the government open and to defund ObamaCare in order to address the epidemic of dropped health care policies, massive rate increases, and job cutbacks that we're now seeing as a result of its implementation. The Senate rejected that compromise by insisting on full funding with no reform. That is their prerogative. It represents the best judgment of that body.

At that point, the differences were supposed to have been negotiated. They weren't. The Senate's leaders refused even to discuss a compromise. So the House offered the second compromise of funding the entire government, including ObamaCare, but at least delaying its implementation for a year to address the rapidly growing complaints that we are all receiving. Instead of taking up the measure, the Senate instead chose to take the weekend off, come in at the leisurely hour of 2:00 in the afternoon on the day of the fiscal deadline, and then summarily reject the House offer, again refusing even to discuss a compromise.

With the clock running out, the House offered a third compromise: fund the entire government, fund ObamaCare, including the malfunctioning exchanges, but at least delay the mandate for individuals to obtain coverage for a year while these problems are addressed and rescind the illegal action of the President that shields Members of Congress from the costs of this law. It's a simple principle: equality under law.

Since the President has already exempted Big Business from the mandate to provide health care for employees, then those employees should also be relieved from the mandate to purchase it. And if Members of Congress can't afford the new costs of ObamaCare, how do we expect the average American to do so? Once again, the Senate summarily rejected the third compromise

by the House and once again refused even to discuss our differences. The clock ran out, and the government is now in a partial shutdown.

Ironically, House Republicans have been accused of a "my way or the highway" approach, yet the record is quite the opposite. House Republicans compromised and compromised and compromised, only to be met by absolute intransigence at the door of the Senate.

The House has now asked for a formal conference committee. This is the mechanism that has evolved over centuries to resolve even the most intractable differences between the two Houses. Yet once again, Senate leaders summarily rejected the offer even before it was formally made.

The only explanation for this conduct is that Senate leaders believe that a government shutdown inures to their political benefit because they can blame Republicans. If Mr. REID and his followers didn't want a shutdown, they would have been feverishly working through this weekend to avoid one as the House was doing. The fact is they didn't, and that speaks volumes.

Our system of governance was not designed to operate in this manner. It cannot operate in this manner. The essence of a bicameral legislature is for each House to act according to its best judgment, isolate the differences, and then work them out. This is the critical link in our deliberative process, and it is not happening. It's not because of any failure of design, but rather because of designing men.

In his 1862 address to the Congress, Abraham Lincoln set the only course that is open to us. He said, "We can succeed only by concert." It is not "Can any of us imagine better?" but "Can we all do better?" The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to this stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. We must disenthral ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the Senate to set aside its dogmas, rise with the occasion, and accept the invitation of the House to sit down in conference. Let us reason together, and then let us save our country.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, last night, just after midnight, you allowed the government to shut down.

Enough with the gimmicks. I'm not up here to play the blame game, to blame Republicans, to blame the President, to blame the Senate, to blame Democrats. That isn't what the American people want to hear. They want us to do our work. They want us to come together.

Mr. Speaker, we need leadership at this juncture. You're the Speaker of

the House, and this is a House that has both Democrats in it and Republicans. We need your leadership at this moment to open the government and serve the American people. That's what they want to see.

Mr. Speaker, you must be willing to work with Democrats in this body. We are ready and waiting to work with you. My office is open. I'm a doctor, and I'm happy to work with you on the Affordable Care Act and make this about taking care of patients, make this about the American people. We stand ready to do the country's work, but we need your leadership and your willingness to work with Democrats.

The Senate has passed a bill that will keep the government open. Bring it to the floor. If the Republicans don't like it, they'll vote against it. But bring it to the floor and give us a chance to vote up or down. That's how government should work. Give us a chance, as a full body, to vote up or down. We're here to work with you, Mr. Speaker, but bring that clean bill to the floor. Don't attach gimmicks to it.

Keeping government open isn't about attaching a gimmick like access to birth control pills. That isn't what this is about. Stop attaching gimmicks. We are ready to work with you to strengthen and fix the Affordable Care Act and make it about the American patient, but this is about keeping government open. Do your job, Mr. Speaker. We need your leadership.

We've got to stop playing the blame game. This is surreal right now. This is not an episode of "The West Wing." This is real life. In fact, I'm going to read a letter from two constituents of mine, Matthew and Michelle. This is the real world.

Representative BERA, I realize you're not the cause of the looming shutdown, but I'm begging you to do everything you can in your power to keep the shutdown from happening. My wedding is literally going to be ruined if the shutdown happens as we are to marry in Glacier National Park on October 13 . . . It is messing up so many people's lives . . . because some elected people in Washington can't compromise.

□ 1015

Here's what Matthew wrote:

The constant bickering and self-interest rather than the interests of the general public seem to be a common focus for many in Congress. Start working together and getting things done.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time for bickering. We need to step up and do our job for all the Matthews and Michelles in America. They're watching, and they're the ones who are suffering. We need to put their interests ahead of political parties, ahead of individual interests.

We got elected to do a job and put the people's interests first. "We, the people." This is the United States of America. We have to start working together in a united way. Mr. Speaker, let's do our work. We stand ready to work and reopen the government. Bring the bill to the floor.

AMERICA'S DEBT TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, today President Obama and Senate Leader REID got what they wanted—the Federal Government is shut down.

House Republicans made four attempts to avoid a shutdown; all were denied a straight up-and-down vote in the United States Senate. And now they won't even agree to a conference committee to work out the differences between the two bodies, per the Constitution.

Given this “my way or the highway” mentality, I want to briefly talk to the American people about what to expect in a bigger fiscal crisis, our impending default on the Federal Government's legal obligations by exceeding our debt limit. Without agreement between the President and Congress in a few weeks, America will default on its obligations for the first time in its history. And I fear that our President and congressional Democrats will play politics with our debt ceiling like they did with going with a government shutdown.

And here are the words of a key player in this debate on increasing our debt ceiling. This was a speech in Congress on March 16, 2006:

The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government can't pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies. Over the past 5 years, our Federal debt has increased by \$3.5 trillion to \$8.6 trillion. That is ‘trillion’ with a ‘T.’ That is money that we have borrowed from the Social Security trust fund, borrowed from China and Japan, borrowed from the American taxpayers. And over the next 5 years, between now and 2011, the President's budget will increase the debt by another \$3.5 trillion.

And the cost of our debt is one of the fastest growing expenses in the Federal budget. This rising debt is a hidden domestic enemy, robbing our cities and States of critical investments in infrastructure.

Every dollar we pay in interest is a dollar that is not going to investment in America's priorities. Instead, interest payments are a significant tax on all Americans—a debt tax that Washington doesn't want to talk about. If Washington was serious about honest tax relief in this country, we would see an effort to reduce our national debt by returning to responsible fiscal policies.

Our debt also matters internationally. Now, there is nothing wrong with borrowing from foreign countries. But we must remember that the more we depend on foreign nations to lend us money, the more our economic security is tied to the whims of foreign leaders whose interests might not be aligned with ours.

And finally:

Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that ‘the buck stops here.’ Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. America deserves better.

I, therefore, intend to oppose the effort to increase America's debt limit.

Those words were the words of Senator Barack Obama. Senator Obama is now our President. Unfortunately, President Obama has forgotten his words as a Senator.

In his first 4 years in office, he added more to our national debt than all the Presidents combined in the history of America. And now, instead of working with Congress to fix this debt crisis and the drivers of this debt—the entitlement programs, our President is demanding a naked increase in our debt ceiling.

Mr. President, the government did not have to shut down today. Mr. President, America does not need to go into default. Work with us, please.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, well, today is a historic day in our country. Despite a Republican-led government shutdown that was completely unnecessary, we are celebrating the opening of the Affordable Care Act or, as I affectionately call it, ObamaCare.

You know, after almost 100 years of fighting to expand universal access to health insurance coverage in the United States of America, in 2010, Congress finally passed, the President signed, and the Supreme Court upheld ObamaCare as the law of the land. And starting today, Americans will be able to learn about the health plan choices and the financial assistance that is going to be available to them. An army of in-person assisters have been trained and stand ready to help Americans understand their options and enroll in coverage that best meets their needs.

Americans can go to healthcare.gov, or in Illinois, where I'm from, getcoveredillinois.gov is up and running.

Now I have heard from colleagues on the other side, all these scare things about how terrible ObamaCare is going to be for the country and for individuals. Let me read to you some constituent letters that I have received.

This is from Gayle Weiss. She says:

I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 1997 and have consistently been denied affordable insurance since that time.

I am so excited that our President has taken steps to help all Americans with access to health care. It's so fitting that tomorrow is my 59th birthday, and what a fantastic birthday gift. Finally, I won't have to worry about losing everything I've worked so hard for if, God forbid, I suffer a catastrophic health issue. No one should have to risk their future for something they have no control over, like illness.

I heard from David Zoltan. He is 34 years old. This is what he writes:

One week before Lehman Brothers went under, I was laid off from my job at the time and spent the next 2 years without health insurance. As a diabetic, the scariest thing in the world is to go without health insurance.

Insulin averages around \$100 to \$120 per bottle, and I need approximately three bottles each of two kinds of insulin every month to live. I had to rely on my doctors to help me apply for any charity care program we could find or beg for the very medicines I needed to survive on a daily basis. Even so, I had to visit the hospital emergency room several times just to get insulin when my doctors couldn't get me free medication.

ObamaCare gave me the preexisting condition plan pools as a lifeline until better solutions were available.

ObamaCare has done so much for me, and I'm proud today to see the beginning of the largest expansion of health care in my lifetime. There will be problems to fix, but we are America. We will fix these problems. We will give the precious necessity of health security to our citizens. We will prevail.

And then I also heard from Eva Strobeck. She said:

I used to get insurance from my husband, who retires in January. I am one of those people for whom it is impossible to get insurance independently. I have three illnesses. ObamaCare makes it possible to get insurance at an affordable rate, which I cannot do without. My psychological medications alone cost about \$5,000 per month. I can't survive without ObamaCare. It must be funded by Congress.

So I want to say that this effort to defund something that will bring life-saving health care to millions of Americans, about 30 million Americans who either have to go bankrupt, who have to pay exorbitant prices, or simply have to do without health insurance, who would be against that? Are there going to be glitches in the program? Of course there are.

Medicare part D had news article after news article talking about the problems of this health benefit for the elderly. Let's get on with it and provide health care for all Americans starting today.

THE UNSUSTAINABLE PATH OF OUR BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, we are here this morning. Many in the Nation have questions about how we arrived at this point. It's not that complex. Different people across the country elect people to represent their viewpoints. Even across my own State, the viewpoints vary widely. I probably represent five or six different demographics, different economic engines, different needs. We are sent here to make decisions, to make hard decisions.

One of the toughest things that the Nation faces right now is that we are on an unsustainable path in our United States budget. Those are not my words. They are the words of a specialist, the economist that we hired to tell us such things just last week, noting that what we're doing is not sustainable.

The one side, I recognized their viewpoints, that they should provide more for more people. Other viewpoints are

that we should live within our means as a Nation, that we cannot continue to borrow from the future to pay for the present.

And so we arrived at this budget negotiation, this way to fund the government, the continuing resolution. What should happen is that we pass 12 different appropriation bills funding the government, one unit at a time, with great insight coming from both points of view, both parties, both sides of the aisle.

About three or four or five of those have been passed out of committee. Some have been sent to the Senate. Those have not been processed, but the House hasn't finished its work. So we were forced into a circumstance caused by both houses, both parties that said, we'll fund the government with a continuing resolution. That is, we will resolve to continue how we spent before. Those are sometimes inadequate, inaccurate reflections of current spending problems, current spending needs. But that's where we were.

Now on the one side, the President said, We want you to just give us the money to spend. Our side said, We will do that, but we want things in return. If we're spending more than the Nation can bring in, if we're spending more than the government has, then we would like to check that spending. We would give attention to the Affordable Care Act, to ObamaCare, that we would choose that in order to relieve the pressure.

The bill is unpaid for. We are printing the money to make government work now. About \$1 trillion a year is being printed.

□ 1030

We call it quantitative easing because printing sounds so crass to the American public. So we're quantitative easing \$1 trillion a year; and yet we're bringing on another program which is unaffordable and which we do not have the trillion or \$2 trillion to spend.

So our side said, initially, we will give you the funding for the government, but on our side, we would like to defund the entire program. That position simply was never responded to by the Senate.

In good faith, we said, okay, we understand your unspoken communication, so we notched down a bit. We will still continue the government funding at the price that you, the President, are asking for. And this time, we'll simply delay the program for 1 year. It's not working. It has problems in many different States. We still aren't certain where the funding comes from.

And, again, the President and the Senate remained silent, not even bothering to show up for work for a couple of days before they sent our first opinion back, simply rejected. The second was sent back.

Last night we were faced with another quandary. We said, we'll notch down one more time. We said, we'll fund the government at the level

you're requesting, but we should, on our side, suggest that we would delay the individual mandate.

The President has given many individual exemptions. He's given waivers to companies, to unions. He said to all employers, we're going to delay your input for a year.

Last night the Senate rejected that. That's the reason we're here today.

I call on the Speaker, the President, and Mr. REID, to gather publicly in front of TV cameras and work the differences out.

THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for the American people and for American democracy.

For weeks, I've told my constituents that I know things look bad, but the Republicans won't shut down the government. There's too many adults on that side of the room to let this happen.

And now, after watching what happened yesterday, I can barely explain this to myself. The best I can say is I feel like I'm serving in the Nation's largest kindergarten, only we're in charge of the Federal checkbook and the nuclear arsenal.

The fact that so many Republicans are holding their breath because they don't like the Affordable Care Act—Congress passed the Affordable Care Act. The President signed the bill into law. The Supreme Court has upheld the law.

And yet this body keeps voting to try and repeal the Affordable Care Act, not just once or twice, getting the message, but 46 times. And it's still operational today.

What happened last night, in the final half hour before closing down our government?

The Republicans came up with a last-ditch effort: let's go to conference committee.

I serve on the Budget Committee. We have been asking, for 6 months, to have the Republicans appoint conferees so we could have a budget in this country. The only obstacle between this country having a budget and not is the fact that the Speaker would refuse to appoint conferees to a budget.

Last night, with 15 minutes to spare, the best idea the Republicans have, after 46 votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act, is to have us go to a conference committee.

What are the results of what happened?

Well, one, government is shut down. Thank you, Republican Party.

Two, the Affordable Care Act is implementing today and is the law of the land.

And, three, I'm guessing the Tea Party had a pretty good fundraising week or two.

But here's what happens to the people in my district. People who are trying to get small business loans from the Small Business Administration are going to be halted; \$1 billion a month that happens is halted right now, so we can't grow the economy.

People trying to get housing loans for rural families and low- and middle-income families are going to be put on hold.

The Women, Infant and Children program for low-income, pregnant women will be put on hold, after this Congress has already tried to cut \$39 billion from food stamps.

We're going to block the Centers for Disease Control from tracking influenza, something that could potentially have devastating impact across the country.

And more than 800,000 Federal employees are going to be furloughed because some Republicans couldn't get their way on the 46th try.

I served in the Wisconsin legislature for 14 years before coming here, and we had our differences, but we always moved on. We did our jobs.

Now it's time for Congress to do our job. It doesn't matter what party you belong to. America deserves better.

The adults in the Republican Party need to take the keys back from the Tea Party before they have to call a tow truck to take the country out of the ditch. It's time for the country to act, and we need the Republicans to get behind something that gets a budget done.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR COLORADO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, this House worked to find a solution to the impasse over the continuing resolution, sending over various options to the Senate to try to jump-start negotiations to work through an agreement to find a solution to keep our government funded.

In the early hours of this morning, we finally said to the leader of the U.S. Senate, HARRY REID, let's find a way to meet face-to-face, through a conference committee, to negotiate a solution and avoid a government shutdown. We've passed, three times now, measures to keep the government funded and a way to find solutions to this critical issue.

But there are many people in Colorado who are struggling now because of the shutdown and who are worried about what happens to their situation, particularly those who may have been impacted by the flood. And that is why we must find a way to get government funded to find a solution to get government going back on track, while preventing policies that we know are bad for the economy.

So let's work together and find solutions but also, at the same time, ensuring certainty to people who are suffering from Colorado's greatest natural disaster.

That's why I bring to your attention a statement that the Vice President made on September 23 in Greeley, Colorado, after touring the damage and devastation that those floods caused.

I stood 2 feet away from the Vice President of the United States as he addressed the people of Colorado and said this:

None of the Federal assistance that we're providing, none if it is going to be impacted even if there is a government shutdown.

So while people may try to use this as a scare tactic, try to politicize a disaster, the Vice President himself stood before the people of Colorado and said there will be no impact on flood recovery.

And yet we have seen in the newspaper people are trying to scare people to try to take away any kind of certainty that exists, but you can't take those words back.

That's why I also sent a letter this morning to the White House reminding the White House, Mr. Speaker, of the promise that the Vice President made to the people of Colorado. And we, as elected officials in Congress, in the Senate, the Governor of Colorado, we have a responsibility to make sure that the Vice President and the President keep their word, they're true to the people of Colorado; that we make sure that, indeed, this statement:

None of the Federal assistance that we're providing, none of it is going to be impacted, even if there is a government shutdown.

So while we work to resolve this issue before the government right now, while we work to make sure that policies are put in place to return to normal operations, we cannot let this be politicized. We cannot let the people of Colorado be forgotten, and we must hold the Vice President and the President accountable and true to their word.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the letter that I sent to the White House this morning, and also the statement, in full, of the Vice President's comments.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2013.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As you know, Colorado is recovering from some of the most devastating floods in state history. Catastrophic water levels caused over \$1 billion in damage to infrastructure and property throughout my district and other areas in the state. More than 20,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, eight individuals lost their lives, and overflowing rivers left a path of devastation. I am grateful for the recovery efforts led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Guard, and others involved in this process. Federal assistance is critical in this time of need and I have fought to ensure that funds are available for disaster relief. On September 30th, my legislation that would raise the cap on disaster-related transportation funds successfully passed the House.

Unfortunately, Congress has not yet come to an agreement to fund the federal government and the nation is now facing the effects

of a government shutdown. While I am working diligently with my colleagues to resolve this funding gap, it is vitally important that the people of Colorado do not suffer as a result of gridlock in Washington. To this end, I was pleased to hear Vice President Biden pledge to the people of Colorado that "none of the federal assistance that we're providing—none of it—is going to be impacted even if there is a government shutdown." This commitment from the White House is reassuring for my constituents and others in the state worried about the impact a shutdown might have on disaster funds. I appreciate your support in this recovery and look forward to working on behalf of the thousands affected by these recent events.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

CORY GARDNER,
Member of Congress.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN IN COLORADO—9/23/13

Now a lot of you will hear probably on the national news about the potential for a government shutdown. And it's probably going to scare the living devil out of you. Well the truth of the matter is there is reason to be scared but not in terms of disaster relief. None of the federal assistance that we're providing, none of it is going to be impacted even if there is a government shutdown. I don't want folks that are here in shelters watching on TV seeing the dysfunction of Congress thinking that all, all the relief efforts that they are now benefiting from or (inaudible) are likely to continue to benefit from are going to shut down. They will not shutdown even if the Congress doesn't fund the federal government in a continuing resolution.

THIS IS NOT POLITICAL?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, here we are. The gentleman who just preceded doesn't want this to be political. It's totally political.

The Republicans spent billions on the last election. They lost badly in the Presidential. They didn't take over the Senate. They even got 1.4 million fewer votes for the House but, because of gerrymandering, they're still in charge.

So now they're attempting to usurp the constitutional order in the United States of America. They're saying that one-half of one branch of the government of the United States, that is, the Republican majority in the House, should dictate policy to the rest of the country. They should be the rulers. They can change laws. They can ignore the Senate, ignore the President.

They are making unequivocal demands. They've taken the country, the government hostage. This is disruptive. It's expensive. It's inconvenient for a lot of Americans who need to access these agencies.

I was just meeting with the chief of the Forest Service. It's going to delay their capability of planning salvage and restoration activities on the hundreds of thousands, millions, of acres across the West that burned. They're going to have to stop all that. And then

winter sets in, and then you're going to have big problems that you can't undo.

But they don't care about any of that because this is totally political.

Now, we're in the shutdown phase now, but their objective is to drag this out and hitch all of their demands—and if you've seen the list of demands, it's every bill that the Republicans have passed since they took over in 2011 that has not seen action in the Senate or been rejected by the Senate—would be appended to the debt limit of the United States.

Now, shutting down the government, pretty radical. But we are really dealing here with, for short, "Cruzites," I guess I would call them. They're sort of anarchist radical Libertarians who don't believe in government.

They don't believe in evolution. They believe in devolution; devolve all the duties to the States, dissolve the Union, essentially, go to some loose federalism, and we'll reach some ideal point somehow.

It's crazy stuff. But they're in charge. It's not even a majority of their caucus. It's a minority of their caucus who are dictating to the majority, because, with 211 fully-red Republican districts, this is all about politics.

Those people know that if they act reasonably here that they will get an ultra right-wing nut case Tea Party primary challenge, funded by the likes of the Koch brothers and others, very, very generously funded.

So they've even managed not only to take the government hostage, but to intimidate their own truly conservative members, those who aren't "Cruzite" anarchist radical Libertarians.

Now, default is unbelievably irresponsible. Even a tiny threat of default, as they did a couple of years ago, downgraded our credit and drove up interest rates just a little bit. But we were much better off then.

Today, if they do this, interest rates for everything in America will go up dramatically. That means tens of billions of dollars more per year just to retire the Federal debt. They supposedly care about the debt. Well, they're going to raise the debt immediately by adding interest costs.

It means home mortgages bump again, stalls out the housing recovery. Cars go up again for loans.

But, you know, they don't really care because they don't borrow money for things. Most of these people are rich, so they don't care. So what if it impacts hundreds of millions of Americans in their daily lives with their credit cards, with their car purchases, with their attempts to get at housing?

They don't care. No, let's not make it political, guys. No, this isn't political. Come on. You want to be responsible? What's it about?

If it's about the problems with ObamaCare, there are a lot of us over here who would like to fix it. You came in with repeal and replace, repeal and

replace, 42 times repealing. Where's the replace?

What are you going to do about people who have preexisting conditions?

What are you going to do about kids between 18 and 26 who are on their parents' policies?

What are you going to do about childhood disabilities who can get insurance now?

What are you going to do about the 50 million uninsured people in this country?

Where's the replace?

Repeal, repeal, repeal. And now you're going to append a whole other list of demands onto this. Not political. Of course not. Not political at all.

You lost the Presidential election. You lost the Senate elections. You lost the popular vote for the House; but because of your gerrymandering, you're still in charge.

You do not represent a majority opinion in the United States of America on these issues. Don't do irrevocable harm to our government, our country, our future to get your political demands met unilaterally.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, thank you to all my colleagues who've been trying to work hard to do what we came here to do, which is to govern. It's a disappointment to me that we're in a situation like this where government will begin to shut down.

□ 1045

That's not good for America, that's not good for our districts, and that's not good for the hardworking taxpayers of this country.

But I got to see politics at its worst over the last few days. We put forth a solution to stop a government shutdown. We asked for some simple corrections, simple changes to a law that many in this country—an overwhelming majority—say is going to be a train wreck. Even Democrats in the Senate say this law, as it is implemented, is going to be a train wreck.

Why did we do it now? Because today is the day that the ObamaCare exchanges open. Our opportunity to fix the problems that even many on the other side of the aisle see may have ended today. That's why we sent a bill that said defund ObamaCare, like many Americans want, but avoid a government shutdown.

The Senate said: We're not going to talk. We don't want to listen. So we said: Let's just delay it for a year, just like the President has delayed it for Big Business and many of his political allies. The Senate again said: No, we don't want to hear from you. We don't want to talk. And we said: Let's just delay the individual mandate, because

the President and his political allies don't have to follow the law that was passed long before I got here. Again, the Senate said no.

And what pains me the most as a brand-new Member of Congress is when we asked the Senate last night to keep the government open but get rid of their own special congressional perk—an exemption in their own health care plan—they again said no.

That no was a thumb right at the American people. That no cut right through the fabric of our communities in this country when the Senate said they deserve a special perk more than anyone else in America. That's shameful.

That's why we're here today. We've put forth the plans to keep government running. And I believe we are going to continue to do that on our side of the aisle. It's time for the American people to demand governing, not just out of our side of the aisle, but out of both sides of the aisle. We need to demand leadership out of this administration. We need to demand leadership from the Democrat-controlled Senate.

What this has become is politics. It's become a blame game. Who's going to be blamed for this government shutdown? I guarantee both sides are going to be polling on this issue to determine who's going to get an advantage.

Politics should not determine policy in this institution. Politics should not come before governing in this institution. And I think the American people should demand action from everyone, and they should demand it now.

A WONDERFUL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, my father used to get up in the morning and say:

Today is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

It's a verse from the Book of Psalms. This is a day I think we can be positive about. All we're hearing is negative stuff and bad stuff, but let's talk about the good things.

Today is the first day in our country that you have the ability to apply for health insurance. No matter what your status is, you can go down to the exchange and ask for a quote and buy an insurance policy, no matter what your condition is. No matter your employer, no matter what illnesses you have in your family, no matter what, you can have insurance. That brings the United States up to the level of every other country in the industrialized world. For the first time, we have joined the countries that take care of the health security of their people. But it's very clear it's going to be uneven across this country.

I come from the West Coast. We call it the "Left Coast." Washington, Oregon, and California are up and run-

ning. They have been planning for 3 months how they're going to get out and get everybody enrolled. The State of Washington's goal is something like 70 percent in the first 6 months for those people who don't have insurance. We're serious about making this thing work. The Governor of Kentucky has just said almost the same thing.

There are spots across this country where you are going to see this law take effect, and people, for the first time in their life, can relax and know that they won't be bankrupted by an illness or injury or be able to say: I'm sorry, we can't do for you whatever is necessary for you or some member of your family.

This is a great day.

In other States, people are going to stand around watching what is going on on the West Coast and say: Why can't we have what they have in California? Why can't we have what they have in Washington? And the answer is: Look to your political leadership. Look to your Members of Congress who said: No, we don't want to put a plan in. We don't want a plan. They'll say: Yes, we want to repeal and replace, but they never once put a "replace" on the table.

I sit on the Ways and Means Committee, where Medicare and the Affordable Care Act came from. The Republicans have been in control ever since it passed in 2009. They have never put a plan on the table to repeal and replace.

They do not care about people who do not have health insurance. It is very clear. The Governors across this country who refuse to take the Congress's generous offer of full funding for Medicaid are simply saying: We don't care about the poor people in our State. We are not going to provide health care for them. Even if the Federal Government will pay the whole thing, they say: No, they can't have it.

The people of those States are going to have to look, Mr. Speaker, at their leadership and say: What are you doing? Do you not understand what it is to be a human being in this society without health insurance and wait and wait and wait until whatever it is that's bothering you is so bad that you have to go to the emergency room?

The reason some people have good health care in this country is because they have health insurance and they can have preventive care. They can have mammograms, colonoscopies, blood pressure checks, sugar checks, and all kinds of things that people who do not have health insurance don't have access to because they can't afford it.

Beginning today, anybody in this country can have their blood pressure checked and their blood sugar checked to see if they have high blood pressure or diabetes. They will be able to begin the process of having much better health care and not have to worry about what happens to their family.

I talked to Bill Frist, who was the Republican leader of the Senate, for

about an hour the other day on the phone. He said: Jim, what those guys ought to do is simply amend the bill that's there and make it work. There hasn't been a single amendment brought in the House to make it work better.

This is a wonderful day for everybody.

HARD CHOICES TO MAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, we're here during—I would not call it historic, because historical things simply happen every once in a while—a shutdown of our Federal Government. It's come because our colleagues on the other side of the building have simply taken an attitude of "it's my way or the highway." That's a wonderful way to look at life. It rarely works in the life you and I live in and that most of our colleagues and our constituents live in back home.

If you look at the Constitution by which we govern this country, it was a series of compromises—big States, little States, unicameral, bicameral. Across the board, there were compromises within that document that have allowed us to try to prolong and preserve this wonderful experiment that we call the American Dream and self-governance. This "my way or the highway" attitude that the leadership of the Senate has taken is calling that into question.

The statements made over the last several days by the folks who support the leader in the Senate must make them feel really good. But to those of us on the receiving end of those comments, it is insulting to be treated this way. It is insulting to have every opportunity we've put over there to try to reach a compromise on this issue to have it simply dismissed out of hand, not taken up on its merits but simply looked at and said: Never mind. It's the lower body over there. We'll treat these folks like children. Their ideas are unworthy of consideration and unworthy of debate. Let's just put them on the table with all the other hundreds of bills that this House has passed over the last 2 years and 8 months to try to move this country into a better position to move it along.

JFK said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear." We agree with that. But he also said, "Let us not fear to negotiate."

Why is HARRY REID fearing the negotiations? We've got our conferees ready to go. They've been named this morning—all good men and women. And the simple question is: Mr. REID, where are your conferees? Why are you afraid of getting into a room with House Republicans and House Democrats—if they'll ever appoint their conferees—and work this issue out? Why are you fearing that option? You're fearing it because you know that the American people are

behind House Republicans in this effort to rein this in.

The core of this issue is the Affordable Care Act. It is without question that this country is on an unsustainable fiscal track. We cannot afford the promises we've already made to each other over the next 75 years. Our grandchildren are at risk for not being able to self-govern because of the spending plans that we've got in place right now. The Affordable Care Act adds a new, third entitlement to this mix. It also is unsustainable. So why would we want to continue this process in the face of the threats that we already have with respect to the spending plans that are now in place for Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid? They will bankrupt this country soon.

We've got hard choices to make with health care. There is infinite demand for health care, unquestionably, and there are finite resources. That requires a reconciliation.

At the core of the Affordable Care Act is: Who does that reconciliation? Should it be government? Should it be 15 bureaucrats in a room, nobody knows who they are, that are deciding what that care should look like? Or, should it be patients and caregivers making some of the most difficult decisions we will ever make in life to decide on health care issues? My money is on the folks in the fight. My money is on the families and the caregivers. They can make far better decisions in this difficult reconciliation process than anything that could be done here in Washington, D.C.

At its core, that's the fight—who makes your health care decisions at the end of the day, and how can this country afford the promises we've already made, which this President has said over and over he will not negotiate with respect to Medicare and Social Security. Where are his plans? Where are HARRY REID's plans for those two entitlements? And now they've taken that same mantra with respect to the Affordable Care Act. They're refusing to negotiate anything about that.

It's unseemly. It's un-American. And, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, my constituents are demanding that we fix this and that we stop this shutdown that's unnecessary, but they also demand that the Senate come to the table with their conferees and let's begin the process of working that out. It is unseemly, as I said, for the Senate to continue to dismiss out of hand every attempt.

Quite frankly, those of us on the House Republican side are getting criticized for having to look like we're negotiating with ourselves, finding time and time again we're trying to find some middle ground that the Senate could, in fact, come to work with us; and this "my way or the highway" attitude the leadership has taken is beneath the dignity of this body.

□ 1100

LET THE MAJORITY VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, this dog does not hunt. The cow has left the barn. This is absurd.

I rise today to urge Congress to put aside partisan politics. We are playing a dangerous game that the majority of Americans agree is time to end.

While certainly Congress needs to fix the Affordable Care Act—of course, I've signed on to several of these bills; we want to make this work. But what is true is that this is behind us. We can neither go back nor start again. We need to fix what we have.

Instead of finding commonsense solutions, all we are doing is letting people go home and not respond to those needs. In Florida alone, 90,000 folks are going to be sent home.

Not passing the legislation closes critical parks that are essential to tourism and hurts agencies that are essential to driving trade and commerce. This is ridiculous, and it is beneath the dignity of this body.

We've heard a lot of things from the other side here. I understand messaging so that we can make the argument, but what needs to be done is we need to sit. I sat with my colleagues on the other side just yesterday. You can see the angst in their eyes. But unfortunately, they have been taken hostage by extremist elements in their party.

The time has come to put these guys aside and come to a deal. We can fix a lot of these problems. We've cut government spending. We can do more of it. We can make government more efficient. We can fix the sequester and give agencies more flexibility.

We agree with all of that on this side. We just need our colleagues to step up and push aside these extremist elements, this "Taliban" that is in America's core for some reason. It's time to act. It's time to fix this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please step forward. There are many of us that want to find a solution. We need to let the majority work its will. That is what the Founders intended for the House of Representatives. It is the voice of the country. It is the popular voice. Please let the majority vote.

LET'S NEGOTIATE, MR. REID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask the Senate to work with the House because of this shutdown.

You know, four times now we have met here in the House to send a plan over to HARRY REID to ask him to consider to negotiate, to find some solution to avoid the shutdown. But indeed, he made a decision that we would not have an honest, open debate; we would

not negotiate. Instead, one person in the Senate decides the fate of our government, of the American people, and it all comes down to HARRY REID.

When we look at this, we were here until 1:30 this morning passing the fourth proposal—and I agree with some of my colleagues, they're saying you're negotiating against yourself. But we wanted to go that extra mile to make sure that we put forth that final proposal that says: Can we not find some common ground?

Now Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues have made comparisons to the Taliban. You know, I don't find that there are any American citizens that deserve that kind of rhetoric and name-calling. It's time that we have an honest and open debate about the merits of this offer, the merits of this debate.

I come from North Carolina. And in North Carolina, we are one of two States that are the worst off of the side effects of ObamaCare. I just got off of a phone call from a government worker who I thought was going to give me a hard time because of the shutdown, and yet she and her husband said that they serve our Federal Government loyally right now. He has served in the military. And he says: You know what, we're standing with you, Mr. MEADOWS, because you're standing with the people.

I think that what we must do is never forget who we've been elected to represent and support. Because you know what, it's not about here in Washington, D.C. It is not about the people that write down the news headlines. It's about the people that we represent back home. And it's time that we start negotiating.

I find it unconscionable that we would send four different proposals to the Senate, and three of them they didn't even vote on. Why is that? Because they want to provide political cover. This quit being about the people and it started to be about politics. Why? Because HARRY thinks that he will have an advantage by shutting down the government, that they will blame those in the House. Well, I want to ask you, Mr. REID, how can you blame someone who has sent you four different proposals, and the best that you can do is just say no response?

I think it is high time that we get together and we work together for the common good. You know, there is not a better example of that than when we passed a Pay the Military Act just the other day in the event of a shutdown to make sure that our military men and women who serve this country faithfully and loyally are paid. And what did we find? Well, that wasn't politically expedient to ignore over in the Senate, so they passed that and it is now law.

It is time that we put the American people in the same focus. It's time that we come together and understand that there are hurting families back home—people that are losing their jobs, people

that are having to be forced to part-time, people that truly are starting to see their insurance go away. They can't keep their doctors anymore. It's high time that we start to address that. People expect a difference, and I'm committed to represent those people of western North Carolina.

I think the other part of it is key, and I'll close with this, Mr. Speaker: I'm willing to work around the clock so that we can find the best way to make sure that we put people back to work here in the government because they are families, too. I've got friends that I've met here that I can see, and I can honestly say that it is hurting me that HARRY REID is not thinking about them.

This is not about politics, it's about people. And it's about time that we come together and start to negotiate. I challenge the leader of the Senate to quit giving the cover votes. Because when we put forth something that says that Congress should not get a better deal than the American people, he should have taken it up.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, quite a day—first day of the government shutdown.

Americans come to Washington to see the Lincoln Memorial, visit the Smithsonian, go to the National Zoo. They go to New York to see the Statue of Liberty—"give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning for freedom." Go to national parks—the treasures of our country—closed. Services tapered down. No new patients at the National Institutes of Health. This should not be in America. Government shutdowns are wrong, and they're bad for our country.

Now, let's think a little bit about how we got here. We got here because the job of the Congress, according to the Constitution, is to come up with a budget and appropriate monies. The Republicans have had a budget, and the Democrats in the House have asked month after month after month after month to have a conference committee appointed so that we could work with the Senate and come up with a budget. And the Republicans—even though we had bills, letters, requests—no conference, no, no, no, no, no.

Now, beyond the last minute, beyond midnight last night, when all of their failed attempts to get the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—and that's what it is, it's an affordable care act and a patient protection act—abolished; passed 3 years ago; 43rd attempt. Reality: it's not going to happen. It's the law of the land. And one day it will be seen, like Social Security and Medicare, as one of the three greatest laws ever passed by this Congress.

But they've tried everything they can to stop it: defund it, put it off a

year, come up with different prevarications. At the last minute after midnight they say: We want a conference committee. They can get a conference committee if they come with a clean continuing resolution.

And what's in their continuing resolution? A budget of \$986 billion. The Ryan figures were less. That's what they wanted. It's not what the Democrats wanted. The Democrats want a higher budget. This cuts 17 percent from Health and Human Services, programs the government offers to people in need, the safety net, people who more than ever need SNAP payments, need Meals on Wheels, need assistance. We accepted their lower figure for a continuing resolution. Even then it wasn't enough. They put it in all these proposals and abolished the health care bill.

You know, when the Republicans came to power about 3½ years ago, one of the things they told the American people: We're going to be different. We're not going to have bills that combine different subjects. You know all you people don't like that, these bills with different subjects that come back from the Senate or pass the House with amendments. We're not going to do that. Then they come with bills that are the budget, a continuing resolution, along with abolishing ObamaCare. That's against what they said they would do.

They said they were concerned about the debt, and they have offsets—no bill could pass without an offset; nothing could contribute to the deficit. Yet they brought a bill, a continuing resolution, but abolishing the medical device tax, costing the government \$30 billion. No offset.

In the history on ObamaCare, they have been cited by PolitiFact twice for having the governmental "Lie of the Year." One is they said there were death panels, panels that simply said that end-of-life discussions could be covered by government payments, a proposal that Republicans put forward—I believe with Senator GRASSLEY and a gentleman from Louisiana.

They also said it was a government takeover of health care. It's not a government takeover; it's insurance. It's the plan Mitt Romney put into effect, Bob Dole championed, Richard Nixon championed. It's a Republican plan. Most Democrats would have preferred a single payer, certainly a public option. They're not satisfied with that.

Now they're talking about a special deal that Congress people get. Shame on them. I, for one, don't take Federal insurance. I have a different program. But for the people in Congress and their staffers, because of an amendment Senator GRASSLEY put in the bill, they go into the exchanges and they leave their Federal health care plan they've been in. It was subsidized, like employers subsidize health care. Now it is no longer. It's unfortunate.

My time has run out. The government has run out.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, here we are, the government has shut down. It's amazing some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have political amnesia, sort of revisionist history. Let's just look at some of the facts.

The other side of the aisle, the Democrats, took over in 2008. We haven't had a Federal budget since 2008. The only way we got a budget this year from the United States Senate was a provision that the Republicans passed: "No budget, no pay." We had to force them by passing a law and embarrassing them to pass a budget.

How did we get in this situation? And this is a very critical financial situation for the United States of America, for all Americans. The shutdown is very unfortunate, but sometimes you have to take dramatic steps to move forward. We got in this situation because the other side—controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House in 2008—went on a spending binge unprecedented in the history of mankind in any government.

The first year they spent more than \$1.5 trillion more than we took in. From 2008 to current, we went from a \$9 trillion deficit to \$17 trillion; nearly doubled it in 5 years—every year spending out of control.

□ 1115

We put the brakes on a bit. This is about funding the government for this next year that starts today.

In 2 weeks, we will reach the maximum limit of the indebtedness of the United States. We can't let the United States become a Greece or a deadbeat nation. But stop and think, they are going to ask for another trillion—\$900 billion in debt and deficit limits for the United States.

At some point, you have to say enough is enough. Now, I Googled last night to see my comments on the shutdown. I put in "Mica shutdown." Sometimes we forget what has happened.

In August of 2011, I chaired the Transportation Committee and came to the floor. The other side had controlled the House, the Senate and the White House, and they could not pass an FAA bill. They did 20 extensions costing millions and millions of dollars leaving the FAA—an important agency—in turmoil.

Finally, I said: Enough is enough. I sent over an extension to Mr. REID—it was a clean extension—except it cut out his \$3,720 per airline ticket subsidy. I am not kidding. In Nevada, one of his airports was getting \$3,720.

So rather than take that, we had a partial shutdown of the FAA. Recall that. Just Google it and you will see. I was called the "Shutdown King." For 2 weeks they pilloried me. They called me an "extortionist." They said I was a "one-man Tea Party terrorist." They

accused me of holding a gun to the Senate's head.

We did pass an FAA bill. We got an important part of our government working again.

I don't like to take those tough measures. We have tried to be reasonable. None of us on our side of the aisle voted for ObamaCare. The other side voted for it, and they told us that we could read the bill afterwards, and we would find out what is in it. We found out what is in it. We tried and we voted more than 40 times to repeal it. We tried in a reasonable fashion. We sent over three times proposals to do some of the things that even the President has done, and that is delaying mandates. He carved out exceptions for everybody, except for individuals.

So here we are. They don't want to compromise. They didn't show up for work on Sunday at all. They came in yesterday. How would you like to show up for work at 2 when things are going to heck in a handbasket and then reject a proposal?

We can't revise history. We have got to work together; we have got to get this done. We have offered a conference to sit down, and we can get the job done. Sometimes it is tough.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure in coming down to the House floor to talk about the government shutting down today.

I represent the metro Atlanta suburbs, Mr. Speaker; and we got a lot of CDC employees in my district. I know everybody has got important Federal functions going on in their district; but I will tell you what the CDC does is honest to goodness life and death business—serious, serious business. I want to see the CDC open, I want to see the CDC funded, I want to see the CDC making America proud, as it has year after year.

We have to look at how we got here today, Mr. Speaker. I have been in Congress 2½ years and the sad fact is in those 2½ years there has only been one time that I felt like the White House gave two hoots what my constituents cared about, just one time. That was in the debt ceiling debate in August of 2011. One time. It was a crisis circumstance, a crisis like a government shutdown—the only time the President came to knock on the door to say how do you think we ought to handle it, how do your 700,000 constituents believe we ought to handle it, how can we come together and make something happen? And we did. We came together, and we made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I remember coming to this Chamber as a young man. I sat over there, I sat right over there in the gallery, Mr. Speaker. I looked over there on the House floor and there was absolutely no one here. I don't mean

not many people here, I mean absolutely no one here. I happened to have the misfortune of being here coming to see the Congress on a day when the Congress was not in session. There wasn't a thing going on.

Mr. Speaker, where we are now in 2013, where the President's new position is, I will never negotiate, period, never, ever; where the Senate's new position is we do not need to have conversations with the House, we have the President of the United States on our team and so we never need to negotiate, ever—Mr. Speaker, if that is what we are going to have here in America, not only should I take my Constitution and toss it out the door, we should just go ahead and turn the lights off altogether. We shouldn't have to have a young man sitting in the balcony wondering why the place is closed down. We should just go ahead and confess that the reason the House no longer meets is because the President no longer cares what the people's House has to say.

Mr. Speaker, I hear it over and over again: it's the law of the land; we should follow it. Now, I happened to hear it in the context of the President's health care bill. I don't hear it in the context of immigration law, for example, where the President just decides what it is that he wants to do, and he just goes out and implements it on his own. I don't hear it in the context of Federal drug law where the President decides, do you know what, these laws aren't as important as those laws so I'm just not going to enforce those anymore. And I don't hear it in the context of the President's health care bill, Mr. Speaker, for the literally thousands of exemptions he has already given to the law because he knows parts of it are unworkable.

Now, we have to confess, Mr. Speaker: America moves in fits and starts. The pendulum swings back and forth. I have to give the President credit for bringing the discussion of health care in this country to a new place. He absolutely did. He brought attention to folks who are uninsured who can't find insurance. Not only did he bring attention to it, Mr. Speaker, really we have created a majority of America that believes we ought to do something and solve that problem.

But instead of solving that problem, the President re-regulated America's entire health care industry. There is not a man or woman in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, there is not a man or woman representing Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives who doesn't have someone in their district who has lost their health insurance because of the President's health care bill.

If you like your health insurance, you can keep it, was the promise. Do you remember the promise, Mr. Speaker? If you like your health insurance, you can keep it. That promise hasn't just been broken, that promise has been virtually erased from America's

memory because tens of thousands of Americans are losing their health insurance. There is a headline in the paper every day, Mr. Speaker.

All we are asking is for the Senate to sit down with us and let's try to solve real problems that real American families are really having today. For all the knowledge that my colleagues have of these citizens in their districts losing their health insurance, they've professed nothing, nothing.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, right now before it gets any worse to do better. We should seize that opportunity. We should come together as our constituents expect us to. We have offered that hand to the Senate, Mr. Speaker. I hope they will take it.

UNINTERRUPTED PAY FOR THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reassure our Nation's military members—both Active Duty and Reserve in Active Duty status and their families—your pay and benefits will continue uninterrupted during this partial government shutdown.

Anticipating your needs, yesterday House Republicans introduced—and Members of both parties and both Chambers agreed—to pass this bill to ensure you will not face any economic hardship during this time of uncertainty in Washington. The President has signed this bill into law.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA trauma counseling services and hotlines will remain open for business. Also, all VA medical facilities and clinics, including vet centers, will remain fully open and operational.

Additionally, yesterday, I introduced a separate bill that expands on our commitment to our military and national defense. My bill would provide uninterrupted pay and benefits to Guard and Reserve members, Department of Defense civilians, and designated defense contractors.

My bill would also provide the President with the ability to carry out other vital national security priorities, which could include funding for military operations or other national security priorities such as intelligence and homeland security.

Our greatest duty as a Nation is to our men and women in uniform. We are grateful for your sacrifice, and we will do all we can to ensure you are treated with the respect you have earned and that you deserve.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a government shutdown—

no matter the duration—is a failure on a part of this institution to fulfill its most basic function.

The House has voted to fully fund the government and prevent this shutdown. The Senate dragged its feet and refused to pass anything for days.

We have also used every opportunity to protect Americans from the health care law's most harmful provisions. The Senate leader has been unwilling to allow an up-or-down vote on even the most reasonable change.

The law's medical device tax that is costing jobs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is supported by both Senators CASEY and TOOMEY and previously passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 79–20. This was part of the House bill. It was rejected by Senator REID.

Each and every day I hear from my constituents about how the health care law is either harming their economic situation or impeding access to quality and affordable care.

There is an appropriate way to conduct budget negotiations and that is through a normal procedure of appointing a conference committee to work out the difference. The House did that last night. We appointed our conferees. The Senate rejected even that measure earlier today.

The American people deserve better. It is time for the Senate leaders to lead.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I just met some of my constituents who had been to a wedding and decided to drive to their Capital, the Capital of the United States of America. It was good to see them, good to welcome them, good to see their smiling faces and their faith in this Nation.

I think it is important to lay out the real facts, for some of us who had the honor of serving in this House and have seen the previous shutdown for the debate over the last 72 hours might give the impression that in actuality there has been no attempt at compromise by the Democrats or by the President of the United States.

Let me disabuse you of those horrible myths. First of all, there are many Democrats who voted for an ugly term by the name of "sequester," which means that it was a "compromise" to Republicans to not shut down the government 2 years ago, to take an ugly number that has hurt families across America, that has closed Head Start seats, that has underfunded major infrastructure projects when cities and counties across America in States have been crying out and begging for the fixing of the national highway system long overdue, airports long overdue. But we accepted this ugly word called "sequester" because the original team

of Members again could not find a compromise—Republicans and Democrats—because, again, Republicans were listening to the far right voices and did not want the government to operate, simply did not want a Federal Government.

□ 1130

So the American people should know that, right now, we are operating under sequester—our staffs are furloughed; we are operating with shortened staffs when lines of cases are in our offices; our staffs are being penalized, and their jobs are to serve the American people, to answer those phones—the desperate calls from around the world of constituents who are stranded, of families who need help for their soldier sons and daughters or husbands and wives, or of seniors who need to be helped or to be straightened out in the confusion of the Medicare and Social Security system sometimes.

That is the work that we do. We make the government work. But yet, right now, we are operating under furloughs. The government, itself, is operating under furloughs, and that's an ugly term for some people. "Well, let the government fall." I don't view it as a government; I view it as people.

So, last night, it looked as if there were no compromise, but you have to understand that the last ditch effort of the Republican Conference was a save face, knowing full well that they had every opportunity to stop the shutting down of the government by supporting something called a "CR." There are all of these acronyms. So, for our constituents who ask, "What is that? What the heck is it?" it simply means we would keep the doors open until November 15, and reasonable men and women—reasonable minds, constituents—could have input, and discussions could be entered into about what are the pros and cons of running this government, about what is the value of the government, about how do we meet the Founding Fathers' values and the Constitution that said, We formed this Union to make it more perfect so that all men—and women, I might add—would have the right for the great values of this Nation. But each time over the weekend, there was one obstacle after another. One Republican Member put up a silly amendment about denying women preventative health care when dealing with their gynecological health needs.

I think it is important to be able to know the truth. They say that the truth will set you free, and the truth is that we now have a sense of rebels who really don't have a cause, because the cause should be the American people.

I note that, in my own community, a base of services of the National Guard was shut down immediately at midnight last evening, or early this morning. These are the consequences—veteran service centers, Mr. Speaker, senior citizens not getting Medicare processed.

So you have an opening, my friends, and the opening and the solution are to have a CR until November 15. Then we can address the needs of the American people. We are looking for solutions and are prepared to work for the American people right now. Mr. Speaker, put it on the floor of the House, and let us vote.

SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, we are at a shutdown, which is to say that we are in a challenging time.

My prayer, I think, is joined by so many other Republican colleagues for families that have been affected. It is something that we very much wanted to avoid in any way possible. That's why the multitude of different options were offered here by this House to the Senate, but they were ultimately rejected.

I think that the bigger question, though, in any challenging time is: What does it mean, and where do we go from here? In that light, I'd just like to offer a little bit of context as to what all of this means and what's going on.

Quite simply, I'd say that there is real value—real wisdom—in different perspectives. I don't think it's lost on any of us as Republicans in the House that two beats one in the world of politics. You have here a President who has said, I'll negotiate with Syrians, and I'll negotiate with Putin. You have HARRY REID, who has been anything but wanting to work with the Republicans in the House—he has been awfully dismissive—when what Republicans have been trying to say is, Wait a minute. Let's pause for just a second. There is a different perspective that we are hearing from folks back home on the implications in the implementation of so-called "ObamaCare" in going forward.

The first is an issue that, frankly, has been lost in this whole debate, which is the constitutional issue on, ultimately, the balance of power and the separation of power. Our Founding Fathers were very deliberate in setting up a system wherein the Congress was to create laws; the judiciary was to interpret them with a thumbs up or thumbs down on constitutionality; and the executive branch was to administer. But what you have in this particular instance is a breach of that separation of power, because you have a President that is sort of unilaterally picking and choosing that which is to be implemented.

Can you imagine if Bill Clinton or George Bush were to selectively decide the way in which the Tax Code might be implemented? We're just going to enforce it on poor folks but not on rich folks. To a great degree, that's what is happening here, and it is a constitutional issue that sets precedent in

going forward, in essence, on the very separation of powers as deliberated and laid out in the Constitution;

Secondly, I think it is a big issue and worthy of debate because, in this instance, you have 1,200 bigger businesses that were granted waivers before, ultimately, it was absolved for all large corporations while individuals were still stuck dealing with the law. You had an exemption for Members of Congress but no exemption for individuals across this country. That idea of selectively implementing, I think, is very, very dangerous ground because, ultimately, I would say a good part of the glue that has held our Republic together for over 200 years has been this notion of fairness, or equity. People believe that you may not like some of the laws, but, ultimately, they were administered fairly, evenly. That is not what is taking place at the onset of the Affordable Care Act, and I think you are playing with real dynamite when you begin to selectively implement a law.

Thirdly, as has been noted by a number of speakers earlier, I would say there are real cost considerations. We are at something of a tipping point as a civilization as to what our Nation can afford, and we are looking at an awfully big, new bill that will come with this particular bill.

Fourthly, I would say we are looking at some real unintended consequences that, I think, are worthy of the pause, simply the delay, that if you're going to have the selective implementation of a bill, it warrants the delay of that bill because, in this case, you have entities as disparate as the University of Virginia, where I went to graduate school, or UPS, saying, We are no longer going to offer health care to spouses and dependents. You have unintended consequences in terms of businesses cutting employment at 50, or you look at the number of hours that one works, saying, Okay, we're going to tap you below 30 hours.

There are very serious, unintended consequences that, again, I think, warrant the House's position of simply saying, Should we pause for a year since the President, himself, has decided to give pause to any number of parts to this bill?

One last thought on context, and that is that the media would have you believe that this is a fight of epic proportions, of epic consequences, of epic nature. In fact, if you look at what has happened with shutdowns in the past—and this is in no way to minimize their effect or the significance of where we are—there have actually been 17 shutdowns here over, basically, the last 35 years. I was here for the last one back in the mid-1990s. If you look at those 17, 12 occurred while Tip O'Neill was sitting in your Speaker's chair, Mr. Speaker. In many cases, it was a Democratic President with a Democratic Senate, with a Democratic House, wherein they disagreed on whether or not we should produce a nuclear carrier

or how we were going to fund abortion or how we were going to fund some other portion of government.

So I think that what we have here is a simple disagreement that has ground to a halt right now, but there is a larger context that, I think, is very, very important that the Republicans are trying to advance, which is: how we move forward in a way that doesn't hurt the American public.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the request for conference by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) "Joint Resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

This is a painful day for many across our land, and the sense of disappointment deepens. May those who possess power here in the Capitol be mindful of those whom they represent who possess little or no power, and whose lives are made all the more difficult by a failure to work out serious differences.

You know, Lord, what our needs are. Inspire the Members of this House to better serve not only their constituents, but the entire Nation, which looks with wavering hope to them for heroic leadership that benefits all.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FAIRNESS FOR ALL

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of fairness for all under ObamaCare.

Democrats, working with the President, sought and obtained a special exemption for Members of Congress and their staffs from ObamaCare's onerous costs and mandates. This is outrageous and insulting to the American people.

Last night, the House passed legislation to ensure that Members of Congress, their staffs, and other well-connected political insiders don't get any special carve-outs from ObamaCare. It's a fundamental issue of fairness. But the Senate, last night, voted to exempt themselves, their staffs, and other political cronies in the White House from living under the mandates imposed on the rest of the country.

Time and time again, this President has given special breaks to unions, campaign donors, and Washington insiders. These are breaks he is not giving to the American people. This is one of the fundamental problems of ObamaCare. It creates another way for the government to pick winners and losers.

INVESTING IN THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Robert S. Pierson is a Canadian freighter full of wheat, trying to reach a Buffalo business. It's been stuck in the Buffalo River for 5 days because of a broken lift bridge, causing economic damage throughout the Great Lakes and its economy.

For years, House Republicans have chosen policies of austerity, sequester, and now, shutdown. They have refused to invest in America, and, as the Pierson shows, this is catching up to us.

In a recent interview, World Fuel Services Chairman Paul Stebbins decried our lack of investment in infrastructure, education, and research, saying:

Europe has 10 years of disaster ahead of them. China's a mess, financially. The U.S. could be blowing the doors off it, but the worst enemy is us. This is self-imposed. So shame on us.

Indeed, shame on us. Shutting down the government and playing games with our credit is exactly the wrong thing to do. Now is the time for bold investment in rebuilding the Nation's infrastructure, not brinkmanship.

LET'S FIND A SOLUTION

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I have to say, I'm disappointed in the actions of the United States Senate this morning by rejecting the bill passed by the House last night.

The bill we passed in the House last night would have funded the government through December 15 and would have provided fairness to the American people under ObamaCare. No exemptions, no exceptions. Let's treat everyone the same.

And last night, they not only rejected that, but they also rejected our call to sit down and resolve our differences under the Constitution, which makes it clear that if the two Houses disagree, that we should sit down and discuss and try to resolve those matters. My goodness, they won't even sit down and have a discussion about this.

Our country has big problems. Today, our government has big problems. The only way these problems are going to be resolved is if we sit down amicably and keep the American people in mind and come to an agreement.

HEALTH CARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Good news, Mr. Speaker; today is October 1, and health care in America is now available for all

Americans. Last night between 1 and 2:30 in the morning, after leaving this floor with a degree of disappointment, we went to the Web site. We took a picture. We saw how extensive and detailed the Web site was for Americans to enroll for preventative care, to be able to ensure that seniors don't have to pay high costs for prescription drugs, to make sure that young people, strong young people who believe that the world is theirs can be on this Web site. It was exciting, because as we logged on, it said, We are loaded. There are so many people trying to get on to be able to access America's health care.

And you know what, we have the ability to debate the health care issue while Americans are continuing to access it. And we can pass a clean continuing resolution. That's a good plan.

We understand there's disagreement. I respect my good friends. But America is excited today. Not only is it my brother Michael's birthday, but it is also the day for good health care in America. Enroll. The marketplace is open. That's what America is all about.

OPEN UP THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I'm calling for the government to reopen. I'm calling for leadership on both sides to resolve these issues. The FBI is being impacted. The CIA is being impacted. The National Counterterrorism Center, which is looking at leads that are coming in to keep this Nation safe, is being impacted. The NIH and cancer research and Alzheimer's research is being impacted. People and families are being impacted.

This is bad for America. It's bad for America. Enough is enough. It's time to be leaders. It's time to govern. Open up the government.

SHUTDOWN

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to resolve this fight and stop this government shutdown. Today, Federal workers across the country, including at Dover Air Force Base in my home State of Delaware, are being sent home without pay. America is better than this. Many of us on both sides of the aisle are willing to work together to find consensus and to focus on solutions. That's the responsible way to govern.

And I'm convinced that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want this government shutdown either. It's only a small minority of those in the Tea Party who have forced this on the American people. But the

other side has been hijacked by these extremists, and they're holding our government hostage.

It's time to put the people above politics. It's time for the responsible voices here in Congress to prevail. It's time for us to do what's right for the American people, and end this government shutdown.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS UNACCEPTABLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, because of the lack of leadership from the President and Senate Democrats, our government is experiencing a shutdown. American families are faced with smaller paychecks, and the most vulnerable are being denied access to necessary government services.

The American people should look at the actions of officials, not words. The President never planned negotiations, and Senate Democrats left town during the crucial weekend of votes. Meanwhile, House Republicans have passed four different bills to keep the government functioning.

Our country deserves better than this kind of behavior from some elected officials. It is revealing that Washington Democrats have refused to sit down at the table, engage in dialogue, and negotiate a solution.

It is my hope that the Senate changes course and begins negotiating with a bipartisan group in the House who wants to put the well-being of American families over party politics.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Happy sixth birthday, Emily Ruth Wilson of Naples, Italy.

SHUTDOWN

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last night, this United States Congress put more than 800,000 patriotic Americans out of work indefinitely. That means 800,000 families may not pay their mortgage, their car loan, or their college tuition.

To those Tea Party colleagues who rejoice in a government shutdown, I once again quote our mutual friend, Dr. Seuss. Please listen carefully:

Oh, the places you'll go! There is fun to be done! There are points to be scored. There are games to be won. And the magical things you can do with that ball will make you the winning-est winner of all.

Fame! You'll be as famous as famous can be, with the whole wide world watching you win on TV.

Except when they don't, because sometimes they won't. I'm afraid that sometimes, you'll play lonely games too. Games you can't win 'cause you'll play against you.

NO OBAMACARE SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS

(Mr. COTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COTTON. Regrettably, the government has shut down because of the stubborn party line votes of the Senate Democrats.

The House Republicans have acted reasonably and responsibly to act on two simple principles: the government should be funded, and the American people should get relief from ObamaCare. We have repeatedly made reasonable and responsible compromises. We couldn't repeal ObamaCare, so we offered to defund it. We offered to delay it for merely 1 year when the President has delayed so many parts of it himself, yet the Senate rejected every one of those compromises.

And now we have simply said, if ObamaCare is such an amazing success story, then the Members of Congress and Senators and their staffers should live under the laws they imposed on the American people. Yet that is not enough for the Senate Democrats. They would rather keep their special exemption from ObamaCare than keep the government open.

So when I'm asked, When will the government reopen? The answer is very simple: when the United States Senate puts the national interests ahead of their personal financial interests.

□ 1215

TODAY IS A SAD AND SHAMEFUL DAY FOR OUR NATION

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad and shameful day for our Nation. For the first time in 17 years, our government has been forced into a shutdown.

This morning, many of our veterans, seniors, and over 800,000 hardworking government workers, including as many as 170,000 from California, woke up to a new day of great uncertainty.

I'm saddened and terribly disappointed that the Republicans have chosen this irresponsible path. We get it: you hate the Affordable Care Act. But we should not shut down the people's government to sabotage a law that provides millions of Americans with affordable health care for the first time.

It's also a good day because I'm already hearing reports from people back in California that our State's health care exchange is off to a great start. And as a mother, I'm happy and relieved that my own 32-year-old, uninsured son finally has access to the health care he needs.

Keeping the government running is our most basic responsibility as lawmakers. Let's end this embarrassment

today and get back to the business of the American people, and vote on a clean bill that will fund the government and end this shutdown.

END THE SHUTDOWN AND PROVIDE FAIRNESS TO ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, President Obama will negotiate with the Russians, talk to the Iranians; but he won't come to Capitol Hill and work with the duly elected representatives of the American people.

HARRY REID refuses to work with House Republicans to end the government shutdown and level the playing field for Americans.

The House has made numerous attempts to delay ObamaCare for the American people, just like the President has for businesses.

We also want fairness for all and have voted to strip out Federal contributions for Members, staff, the President's Cabinet, and political appointees. Unfortunately, the Senate doesn't care about providing fairness for hardworking American families.

It's time for the Senate and the President to engage in the process and fight for commonsense solutions for the American people. The government shutdown will only be temporary, but ObamaCare is going to have long-term consequences that will hurt our economy.

I urge the Senate and the President to come to the table, work with the House Republicans, end the shutdown, and provide fairness for all Americans.

TODAY IS A DISGRACE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today's the first day of the Republican shutdown of our government. It's a disgrace. And why?

Because of this obsession with repealing, weakening or defunding ObamaCare, a bill that was passed by both Chambers after full debate, signed by the President, affirmed by the Supreme Court, was a central issue in the last Presidential campaign.

But this obsession with denying millions of Americans access to quality, affordable health care has caused our friends on the other side of the aisle to shut down the government unless they get their way on this policy issue.

That's not how our democracy works. Our friends have allowed the Tea Party coalition within their caucus to hijack our government and shut it down, causing harm to veterans and seniors and Federal employees, and stopping the basic functions of government.

It's time to end this practice. It's time to put the American people first.

You got exactly what you wanted. One of the key spokesmen of the Tea Party, one of our colleagues said, and I quote:

We're very excited. It's exactly what we wanted, and we got it.

The American people deserve better.

FAIRNESS

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about fairness. Last night, I sent a letter to our Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives asking that my salary be withheld during this government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are no better than anyone else in the State of Missouri or the United States. Families in my district and across the country are facing furloughs because President Obama and the Senate Democrats refuse to work and cooperate with House Republicans to stop the negative impact ObamaCare will have on our economy and our health care system.

Senate leaders and President Obama must be willing to work with conservatives here in the House. While our government is shut down, I'm refusing my congressional salary because Members of Congress should not be treated any differently than any other American; and I urge every colleague and every Senator to do the same.

IMPACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Many years ago, during the last shutdown, my husband was a Federal employee, and we were impacted.

My husband used to leave the house every morning around 5:15, walk to the bus stop, like so many Federal employees, catch a bus at 5:30. And my son would have Cub Scouts maybe at 7, or some event that night, so he'd try to be home by quarter of 7.

And then one day, the government shut down. And I can't forget the sense of betrayal there. For all the hard work, for doing the people's work, this is what happened.

And now this is happening again today to so many. This is just wrong on every level.

The reason we have shut down the government is because they don't like the law. They don't like ObamaCare. They don't want all the people who have no insurance to get insurance today. They don't want people who have preexisting conditions now to be able to get health insurance.

Send us a clean bill. If you really want to work this out, send us a bill, take out the ObamaCare, take out the

part about birth control, take out all of your special stories there. Give us a clean bill, and we could pass it today.

But, instead, they want to hold the American government hostage.

THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN OBAMACARE

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, the government is shut down today because Democrats like HARRY REID and the President refuse to negotiate. We, in the House, have sent not one, not two, not three, but four different spending proposals to the Senate. All were rejected without debate, and the Senate has refused to appoint conferees to even talk to us about it.

This is now about more than ObamaCare. This is now a fundamental debate about how we work in a divided Congress. Republicans must work with Democrats. The House must work with the Senate, and the Congress must work with the President.

During a Conference Call With Your Congressman last night that I hosted in the middle of all of this, Gloria Wilson from Corpus Christi said:

You make us feel like we have a voice.

Well, I am the voice of my constituents, and that's what we're doing here in the House. Compromise and coming together and doing what's right for the country is what the Founding Fathers intended when they set up two Houses of Congress and three branches of government.

We, in the House, are ready, willing, and able to negotiate with the President and the Senate. What we're not willing to do is give up our constitutional responsibility as guardians of America's purse and voices of our constituents.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in Psalm 118:24 it says:

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is a day of rejoicing. The Republican wrecking ball that was supposed to take out ObamaCare has failed. It was a failed idea. It was a bad idea. And ObamaCare is going into effect today.

So rejoice. Everyone in this country now has a chance to have health insurance coverage. We've been waiting for 100 years since Teddy Roosevelt first proposed it. And finally, it's here.

Newt Gingrich said, If we allow Mrs. Clinton's health care plan to pass, the Democrats will be in for the next 60 years, like they were after we passed the Social Security Act of 1935.

Well, folks, that day is here. It's a glorious day. Rejoice. You can get your health insurance.

THE PLOT CONTINUES

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, almost before we finished our vote on the floor of the House calling for a conference committee to address concerns and try to face each other eye-to-eye, House-Senate, to come up with a solution, the phone lines were ringing and a robocall was sent out: while you were sleeping, your Member shut down the government.

This morning, I went to check and see how much further this plan had gone on, that purely said what was done for the last 2 weeks was political, to shut down the government, designed by the Senate Democrat leadership and the President of our United States.

I went to E-Verify. This is a computer program. E-Verify is unavailable due to the Federal Government shutdown. It's a computer.

The Panda Cam at the zoo was shut down. That's a camera. It's not a Federal employee.

Mr. Speaker, we offered fairness for the people of the United States, an option to make sure that we lived under the same plan that they do. The Senate rejected it.

We offered a compromise to go, simply, to a conference committee and discuss a plan of a way forward. It was rejected.

The plot continues. Political, not policy, not for the good of this country.

BIPARTISAN COOPERATION IS WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of Mr. McDERMOTT. It is a happy day for the American people because today people can begin enrolling in the Affordable Care Act.

Imagine if you were there when Social Security became the law of the land. Imagine if you were there when Medicare did—and two of our colleagues were, Mr. RANGEL and Mr. DINGELL.

But you are here when the third pillar of economic and health security for the American people is being put into place. It's historic: health care for all Americans, as a right, not just a privilege for the few. We'll talk more about it in the course of the day.

But I come to the floor to really address the issue of the government shutdown, an attempt to hold back the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act. It didn't happen.

But what is happening is that our colleagues on the Republican side have

refused to accept their own suggestion. So I come, once again, to the floor to propose to the Speaker and our Republican colleagues an explicit offer to help get the votes for their number, 986. I think it's a number that's too low, but I do think with the 6 weeks that are built into it for us to come to the table to discuss a budget that reduces the deficit, that creates jobs, that puts people to work, that we can make progress.

Once again, an explicit offer to help you, Mr. Speaker, get those votes, because this shutdown, while it might be a joy to all of you who are opposed to government, is a luxury our country cannot afford.

Senator REID, leader of the Senate, has three times, at least three times, accepted your offer of 986. Once again, he will send it back to us so that we can take "yes" for an answer to a number that the Republicans have put forth, which the Democrats don't like because we already agreed with the Republicans on a number, a compromise number, 1,058, but are willing, in the interest of the American people, to accept that number as the basis for discussion and go to conference, really go to conference.

Well, I won't even go into my view of what happened last night. I will say, and remind, that 5 years and a couple of weeks ago, we had terrible news brought to us that said that our financial institutions were in meltdown.

House Democrats rallied to support President Bush to stop that meltdown from happening, even when Republicans rejected the proposal of their own President.

Bipartisan cooperation is what the American people expect; and when it is a question of a meltdown of a financial institution, the shutdown of our government, we have no choice but to cooperate with each other.

So in that spirit, I offer a hand of friendship to the Speaker, to our Republican colleagues, accepting their number as the basis for us to go forward to truly go to the table, as was suggested 6 months ago and many, many times in the time since then.

So I hope that, again, in the interest of the American people, the Republicans will take "yes" for an answer to their own proposal, and let us sit down and get to work for the American people.

Shutting down government should not be an option that is taken lightly by any of us here. Let's get it open. Let's get to work.

□ 1230

FAIRNESS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the House continues to send the Senate options to end the current government

shutdown, but they refuse to appoint conferees. Every American family has to live within its means and overcome differences. Congress must do the same. I implore the Senate to take the very basic step of agreeing to a conference with the House to resolve our differences.

House Republicans remain committed to ending this government shutdown. It is unfair for the administration to grant a delay for big businesses, but not to individuals. It is unfair for the administration and Congress to exempt themselves from ObamaCare and to grant hundreds of other special waivers, but not allow a delay of the individual mandate for every ordinary American.

We must all live under the laws that we enact and provide fairness for the American people.

TAKE THE RESPONSIBLE COURSE

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, last night, as we were preparing to vote at an ungodly hour, I was receiving messages from friends from home who were concerned about the irresponsible nature of the leadership in this House in taking actions that would lead to the shutdown of our government.

One of the messages that was particularly important to me was from a dear friend who was waiting for midnight so that she could sign up for health care for her child. My friend Ellie's husband died at a very young age, unexpectedly, and left her alone with a young child. Her child has developmental issues and challenges, but he's done very, very well with a great deal of help, and he's gone off to college. She couldn't be more proud of him.

But the truth of the matter is she can't afford health insurance for her family. It's over a thousand dollars a month. She wrote to me:

I cannot wait until I can sign my family up for health care.

That's what today is about. We need to get the country back to work, open the government, and take the responsible course.

TIME FOR THE SENATE TO RESPOND

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it seems that only the American people can drag HARRY REID to the negotiating table. Back home, Hoosiers already know that Washington is fiscally broke; but today, after the Senate pushed this country into a shutdown, they also know that Congress is broken.

The House has sent HARRY REID and Senate Democrats four separate proposals to keep the government open, yet Senate Democrats have rejected each one of them without offering a single counterproposal. It's clear that President Obama and HARRY REID would rather shut the government down than even discuss the real-world consequences of ObamaCare.

The American people don't want the government to shut down and they don't want Washington to saddle them with ObamaCare's tax hikes, job losses, and higher premiums. My colleagues in the House have listened and acted. It's time for the Senate to respond.

I'm hopeful that the American people will continue to make their voices heard in Washington. It's time for Senate Democrats to end their politically motivated obstructionism. It's time for Senator REID and President Obama to come to the table and talk.

HARDER YET MAY BE THE FIGHT

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of talk about fairness. Let me tell you what's not fair.

It's not fair for a working mother with one child who works full-time at \$7.25 an hour and makes \$15,080 a year. That working mother works full-time and lives below the poverty line. The poverty line is \$15,180 a year. It is not fair for that working mother not to be able to afford health care for herself and for her child. This is the fairness that we are addressing.

This fight is all about working-class people, not about those who make millions and billions. One person in this country made \$3 billion. That's \$400 a second. It's not about this person who, by the way, paid 15 percent taxes. It's not about 1 percent raking in all of the wealth. It's about working-class people who can't get health care.

We cannot allow health care to become wealth care in the richest country in the world. One out of every 60 persons in this country is a millionaire. One out of every 11 households is worth more than a million dollars.

This is about working-class people. Harder yet may be the fight.

NO SPECIAL DEALS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my constituents' frustration with Washington, D.C. After a long career in the private sector, I share their frustration. I have negotiated many contracts where I used to work. To negotiate a contract, you need two parties to come to the table.

Last night, the House sent a reasonable compromise to the Senate that

subjects the rulers in Washington, D.C., to the effects of the health care law like the rest of the American people, and provides the American people with the same deal that President Obama gave big businesses and his friends. Members of Congress should not get a special deal when the American people do not.

Senator REID's refusal to talk, negotiate, compromise, and work with the House resulted in the shutdown of the Federal Government. The refusal to negotiate in order to protect congressional perks is indefensible.

The American people expect and deserve better. The Senate must now come to the table.

CHECKING THE FACTS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you how indefensible it is. The provision that said that Congresspeople and their staffs were kept out of the Federal insurance plans and put into the exchanges was drafted by CHARLES GRASSLEY, a Republican from Ohio, who said, on September 26, that he never intended that to take away the employer subsidies that congressional staffers have gotten for years and years and years, like every other employee in America. The Republican who drafted this himself said: That's not correct. It's not right.

The Republicans have lied about health care, saying ObamaCare was the government takeover of health care. PolitiFact said it was the biggest lie of the year. They said there were death panels—biggest lie of the year. This will give them a triumvirate, the three biggest lies of the year. They're lying about their own employees, their own health plan.

The fact is they were the only people in the country to be put out of the plan they were in and had their subsidies taken away. It's cruel and wrong. They deserve health care, too.

DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. RICE of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my friends across the aisle like to say "therefore, the working class," but their actions speak more loudly than their words.

The working man just got a \$100 a month pay cut with the expiration of the payroll tax cut. The President's war on coal will deny our cheapest fuel and will increase American families' monthly utility bills by another \$50 a month. The administration's energy policy is designed to drive up costs at the pump—over \$1 a gallon in the last 4 years—costing the average working family \$150 per month. And now comes ObamaCare.

Forbes Magazine estimates that medical insurance will average 90 percent more for men and 60 percent more for women, costing families hundreds of additional dollars per month. Sooner or later, these \$100s per month add up.

The administration has a plan: break the middle class with taxes and higher costs so we'll all be dependent on the government. But hey, at least then we'll get subsidized government health insurance.

IT'S A SAD DAY FOR AMERICA

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, nobody in this House has wanted the government to shut down, as it has today. Indeed, Speaker BOEHNER himself predicted no government shutdown several months ago and was holding by that—until he became hijacked by a certain element of his party.

In May of 2007, President George Bush was President, the Democrats controlled the House and the Senate, and 140 Democrats in the House of Representatives voted to defund the Iraq war. In September of the same year, Congress voted to increase the debt limit.

Now imagine if NANCY PELOSI and the Democrats had threatened to breach the debt limit unless the Republicans agreed to defund the Iraq war. At that time, approval of the Iraq war was polled at 33 percent in favor and 64 percent against.

So today is a sad day, in view of the fact that our government has shut down. It's a sad day for workers across this country—especially government workers. Those on the extreme right are happy about it. We read their quotes every day in the press. MICHELE BACHMANN said:

We're very excited. It's exactly what we want. We got it.

Another Member on the majority side from Texas said:

Let's roll. Let's go for it.

It's a sad day.

STAND UP FOR AMERICA

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. They come every 17 years. They make a strange and unpleasant noise, and then they shut down.

Like those periodic cicadas that trouble different parts of the country, an irresponsible segment of the Republican House caucus has reverted to the old GOP shenanigans of a government shutdown that they've left in some burrow for the last 17 years. That Republican "Shutdown Caucus" has taken over the leadership of the Republican Party. They've hijacked it.

But we cannot permit them to hijack America. This is more than a backyard

nuisance. It is an attempt to interfere with the lawful rights of millions of Americans to gain access to the health insurance that they have been denied in the past.

We must stand for their right to protect their family and secure their future. We must reject those who appear every 17 years to shut down our government. And we must stand up for America.

SAD DAY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this shutdown was totally brought about by the Republican leadership. If you listened to our Democratic leader, NANCY PELOSI, when she spoke earlier, she made it quite clear that there wasn't any real disagreement with regard to the budget or the continuing resolution to keep the government going.

The fact of the matter is that last night, the Republican leadership could have simply passed the clean Senate bill to keep the government running, at least for a short period of time, if further negotiations were necessary. But that's not what they wanted to do. They wanted to shut it down in the name of repealing or defunding the Affordable Care Act.

We've already been through that. We had an election. The Affordable Care Act was passed 3 years ago. Those 30 or 40 million Americans who have no health insurance can actually sign up today. We should not be going through that exercise again for the 41st or 42nd or 43rd time.

Do not believe the Republican leadership. They wanted to shut this place down. They have shut it down. And I don't see any effort to try to reopen it. It's a sad day for the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1643

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules

on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OPERATIONS, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, AND UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 70

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (division F of Public Law 113-6) and under the authority and conditions provided in such Act, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this joint resolution, that were conducted in fiscal year 2013, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available by such Act under the following headings:

(1) "Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System".

(2) "United States Holocaust Memorial Museum—Holocaust Memorial Museum".

(3) "Smithsonian Institution".

(4) "National Gallery of Art".

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) for each account shall be calculated to reflect the full amount of any reduction required in fiscal year 2013 pursuant to—

(1) any provision of division G of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6), including section 3004; and

(2) the Presidential sequestration order dated March 1, 2013, except as attributable to budget authority made available by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2).

SEC. 102. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 103. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and au-

thority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

SEC. 104. Expenditures made pursuant to this joint resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 105. This joint resolution shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the joint resolution shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 106. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 107. It is the sense of Congress that this joint resolution may also be referred to as the "Open Our National Parks and Museums Act".

This joint resolution may be cited as the "National Park Service Operations, Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

□ 1645

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 70 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this important legislation to fund the operation of the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, and the National Gallery of Art.

The effects of the government shutdown, which began at midnight last night, are already being felt across the country and in our Nation's Capital. As of this morning, all 401 National Park Service units in the United States, 19 Smithsonian museums and galleries, including the National Zoo, the Holocaust Museum, and the National Gallery of Art, were closed to the public. This legislation, if adopted, would re-

open these national treasures to the American public.

Mr. Speaker, the American people woke up this morning to the headlines that read: "The Capital of the Free World: Closed Until Further Notice." It's no surprise that the government shutdown has had an impact on real people and on the economy. On our National Mall, tourists yesterday raced from one museum to another, trying to see as many sights as they could with the government shutdown looming.

It is estimated that the local economy could lose up to \$200 million a day with the National Zoo, the Smithsonian museums, the Holocaust Museum, the National Gallery of Art, and other popular attractions closed to the public. This doesn't even begin to measure the national and international impact of these closures.

In the case of the National Park Service, 21,379 employees across the country were furloughed today. This has an impact on real people. Families who long ago made plans to visit Yosemite or Yellowstone or the Statue of Liberty found these sites and others shuttered today. This has an impact on real people. I heard on the news about a group of World War II veterans who arrived at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., today and found that the site had been barricaded. That didn't stop them from entering the memorial built to honor their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I trust everyone in this body can imagine how much affection and respect I have for the national parks, that which I share with my very good friend from Idaho. We love the National Park System. I love the Smithsonian. When we have that family night, there is nothing more wonderful than taking our children to the Museums of American History and Natural History. I am so proud of what the Smithsonian offers the American people. The Holocaust Museum as well. You can't describe what happens to you emotionally when you walk through the Holocaust Museum.

But notwithstanding how immensely valuable these institutions are to this country and how proud this Congress is of those institutions, I have to rise to oppose this legislation because it is not the way to do business. By that I mean, the idea of shutting down the whole government, and then when we get an adverse reaction from our constituents, we pick and choose and we open up a few.

What happens tomorrow when the Social Security Administration comes to us and says, What about the 16,000 employees we just furloughed? These other folks got an exemption. How about us? It's going to happen every day with every agency until the Republican majority in the House realizes

that every Federal agency is there for a purpose, and it's a purpose that serves the needs of the American people.

But here we are. It hasn't even been 24 hours, and the House majority is feeling the heat from the government shutdown. We on this side warned the majority that you were playing with fire to shut down our government, but it is the American people who are going to get burned. Now, apparently, the heat has spread to the people responsible.

Instead of reopening the entire Federal Government, which is exactly what we should be doing, the majority rushes to the floor a bill, under expedited procedures and with no opportunity for amendment, to reopen just four entities: the National Park System, the Smithsonian, the Holocaust Museum, and the National Gallery of Art. Of course, the National Gallery of Art should be open because it just so goes without having been said that, I think, we all share experiences of walking through the National Gallery. I mean, you can't find, really, anything comparable throughout the world except, perhaps, in the Louvre and in very few museums—but, my gosh, are we proud of it. Of course, the Smithsonian should be open. Of course, the Holocaust Museum should be open. Of course, our national parks should be open to serve the American people.

Now, if we open these, at least our Federal employees will have a place to visit while the rest of the Federal Government is shut down, but it is so unfair to the rest of the government to pick and choose a very few agencies, which has no real impact on the budget, which is the issue here we are supposed to be dealing with. It's a marginal amount of money.

This is an act of desperation. It's evidence, really, of how politically bankrupt this position of shutting down the government has become—degenerating down to picking winners and losers among Federal workers, just so as to dissipate the political heat, it will allow workers at the Smithsonian, at the Holocaust Museum, at the National Gallery of Art, and only those employees directly involved in the operation of our National Park System, to return to work. Even in the case of the national parks, thousands of National Park Service employees who are involved in historic preservation and in national recreation programs and in construction remain furloughed.

What about the 10,200 furloughed employees in the Bureau of Land Management? I don't have many of them. I have one, but I don't have anywhere near as much of a presence of the Bureau of Land Management as my good friend from Idaho has.

Can you justify the 7,750 furloughed employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service? This is hunting season, but you've got to close down these fish and wildlife refuges.

There are 16,000 furloughed employees at the Social Security Administra-

tion who want to be serving the elderly and disabled.

How about the medical researchers at the National Institutes of Health? When NIH comes to us and tells us what they're doing in terms of cancer research, in terms of the research on Alzheimer's and the like, what do we tell them? Are you going to tell them, "We'll expedite under special procedures, and we'll pick you up? we'll take care of you next?" Is that any way to run this government?

How about the Centers for Disease Control and the immunization program workers? Shouldn't they be valued as much as the park rangers and museum workers, who, obviously, have earned their value as well?

This bill is a bandaid on a shutdown that is disrupting the work of all Federal workers and the American people who rely upon the Federal Government to do its job. But for them to do their jobs, we have to do our job, and these exemptions aren't doing our job—picking and choosing what Federal activities we are going to allow to operate and which ones are going to remain shut down. It's going to prove itself to be a politically bankrupt as well as a morally bankrupt position. It is not fair to send 800,000 people home not knowing whether they're going to be able to pay their mortgages, take care of their children—sitting at home when they want to be serving the American people.

It is time to stop the games. The Republican leadership needs to let its hostages go and get on with the real business of governing. Let us vote on a clean CR and reopen the government. If we could vote on a clean CR—and if a majority were all we needed, which is what the Founding Fathers anticipated—that democracy would rule—it would pass in the Senate and it would pass in the House, and we would be done with this Kabuki exercise. This stuff is beneath us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just respond. The gentleman from Virginia is correct in that this is no way to run the government.

I would remind the gentleman from Virginia that we did pass resolution after resolution, and we sent them to the Senate to keep the government operating. Unfortunately, they were rejected by the body on the other side. Now, I suspect that you might have a different take on why that was done. So, finally, we said let's go to conference to try to work out our differences. No, they wouldn't even do that. They rejected that.

So is it fair to punish those people who have planned for months, sometimes years, to bring their families to Washington, D.C.? They've saved. They've put aside money so that they could come out here to show the American people our National Capital or to go to the Yellowstone National Park or

Yosemite. Is it fair to punish them? This opens them and keeps them open for those people so that they can enjoy those natural things that you and I both love. There is absolutely no reason to punish them.

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. The gentleman from Virginia has his own time.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky, HAL ROGERS, the honorable chairman of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which will reopen the doors of our national parks and memorials, the Smithsonian museums and facilities, and the Holocaust Museum.

I couldn't believe my ears when the gentleman who just spoke said that he opposed the opening of these icons for Americans to visit.

I can't believe that you would oppose that.

The Capital City draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the country—from all over the world, in fact—every year. To turn these visitors away from the highlights of this country is unbecoming of the Capital City. All over the country, our national parks preserve our rich national heritage and serve as a reminder to all of us of our history and the vast beauty that makes this Nation great.

This legislation is essentially a portion of the clean continuing resolution I introduced several weeks ago. This is a piece of it. With that in mind, I certainly endorse this path forward. To keep these programs, parks, memorials, and facilities operational, this bill provides funding at the current annual rate of approximately \$3.2 billion. This is \$2.4 billion for the national parks, \$775 million for the Smithsonian museums and \$48 million for the Holocaust Museum.

While this bill helps to provide stability in this segment of the Federal Government, our jobs are far from done. We can't just fund the government in bits and pieces forever. Enacting full-year appropriations that reflect current needs should be at the top of our priority list. This bill keeps us on that path toward achieving that goal, but it's not the end of the line.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the aisle, we have offered now three or four opportunities for the U.S. Senate to avoid shutdown. They've rejected all of them out of hand—dead on arrival, they said—measures that would keep the government operating, keep employees at work and keep all of our national activities going on. Now they say, We are not going to talk with you, not even a discussion. We have appointed conferees to confer with the Senate. The Senate refuses to appoint negotiators, conferees, to discuss with the House side, bipartisanship and bicamerally, ways out of this rut that we are

in. They simply refuse to talk, much less act.

It reminds me a little bit of when Abraham Lincoln was practicing law back in Illinois. A young man accused of killing his parents came before the court, and his plea for mercy was that he was an orphan.

I would hope the U.S. Senate would act. It's up to them. The bill that we passed last night—the amendment—would authorize the appointment of conferees, which the House did, and the Senate has simply refused to even talk. I thought that's what Congress was all about—negotiating, working across the aisle, working with each other, working with the other body to find some common path that we could all agree upon and then send the bill to the President for his signature. You can't operate if one side refuses to talk, so I urge the Senate to act.

I support this bill, and I urge everyone to support it.

□ 1700

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I say to my very good friend from Kentucky that that's a wonderful analogy, because this bill is an orphan that you're separating from the parent bill, where it belongs.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 12¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MORAN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, thirty-seven of 40 National Park Service workers at the Missions National Historical Park in San Antonio have been sent home because of this shutdown nonsense. I'd like to have them back at work, but what about the 90 percent of the Small Business Administration field employees across town who've also been sent home?

Suzanna Cabellero, president of Texas CDC, called this morning, just one of the agents processing small business loans, to tell me that this Small Business Administration shutdown is jeopardizing four of her small businesses that could create 214 Texas jobs. In two cases, the delay may cost a small business person to lose a purchase contract and earnest money. This latest Republican shutdown nonsense discriminates against small businesses; and to some of those small businesses, that discrimination may be fatal.

What if a worker is killed this afternoon in a construction accident? Who from the largely shuttered doors of Occupational Health and Safety will be there to assure that another worker doesn't experience the same fate.

Of course, the shutdown caucus is happy, gleeful, delighted that they've been able to shut down 94 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency. Their only trouble is that they didn't get the other 6 percent, because they don't really believe in protecting, with

effective safeguards, the quality of the air we breathe and the water that we drink.

Instead of shutting down this whole government, this resolution says let's just have a little dismemberment. Through all of this reckless Republican maneuvering, it's not only the United States that cannot pay its bills, but it's so many of our families who are out there wondering how they're going to make the next truck payment or the next rent or mortgage payment.

Shut down the Republican shutdown caucus before it strangles America the way it has strangled the House Republican Party.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation to fund our national parks. Nobody here wanted our government to shut down, but one of the consequences is that millions of Americans have been literally barricaded from entering our parks, memorials, and monuments. While it's understandable that some services would be limited in some parks, it's unfortunate that this administration has taken the unnecessary steps of closing off additional monuments in public places.

Mr. Speaker, it appears to me the Obama administration is choosing to make this shutdown as painful as possible by unnecessarily preventing public access to open-air spaces and monuments. These are spaces that are normally open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long. These are places without doors or without gates. Yet the Obama administration is going out of their way to erect barricades and have people manning them in order to keep people out of these monuments. Mr. Speaker, that's flat-out wrong, and it is terribly wasteful.

Just today, World War II veterans, who bravely fought to defend and protect our country, encountered armed National Park Police and metal barricades when they tried to visit their memorial, the World War II memorial. Yet these veterans were undeterred. The shortsighted decisions by the Interior Department officials couldn't stop them from completing a visit to their memorial. I congratulate them for going in, as a matter of fact.

This targeted bill before us today would allow our national parks and landmarks to reopen to the public, welcoming back tourists and families to these public lands that are critically important to so many local economies.

Mr. Speaker, the House has acted multiple times, as has been said, to fund the government, but now it is time for the Senate to act. I support this legislation.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the very distinguished rank-

ing member of the Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations Committee, as well as the chair of our Steering and Policy Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this irresponsible and purely political proposal by the House majority.

The Government of the United States is shut down. Hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are furloughed. Our country is bleeding from 1,000 self-inflicted cuts, and this majority is trying to play political games rather than work to resolve the crisis.

Because the majority has decided to shut the government down, all three of the priorities that we are voting on today—the Veterans Affairs Department, the National Park Service, the D.C. government—are in immediate need of funding, but so are countless other priorities that are not part of these proposals.

Right now, nearly 9 million mothers and children are losing out on infant formula and nutrition support; food banks are being forced to curtail their activity. Food safety efforts at the Food and Drug Administration are being compromised. Families cannot get home loans. Small businesses cannot get SBA loans. Seventy-three percent of the National Institutes of Health have been furloughed, and biomedical research that saves lives is on hold. The Centers for Disease Control has been forced to halt its tracking of influenza cases right at the start of the flu season. Scientific research at NASA and the National Science Foundation is stalled. Federal economic reports used by businesses and investors are not being released. Environment reviews are not happening. Tax returns are not being processed.

The government is shut down, and families all across America are being affected in countless different ways.

On my way over here, I took the subway that takes us from our offices to the Capitol. The driver of that subway said to me: Do you see what they're doing, Ms. DELAURO? He said: I believe in opening up the park service and the D.C. government and the Veterans Affairs, but who cares about me? I don't know if I'm going to get paid. Do you know what kind of stress that has put me and my family under? All I could do was reach out my hand to him and tell him the Republican majority just doesn't care.

It's time to get real. Reopen the entire government. Stop this irresponsible charade. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my good friend from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), who represents one of the most beautiful places in America, Yosemite National Park.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the little towns around Yosemite National Park depend on tourism for their economies. They're still reeling from the Yosemite Rim fire that brought

tourism to a near standstill last month.

This morning, the National Park Service ordered all visitors out of the park due to the government shutdown, causing lodges and concessionaires to lay off employees and close. A local merchant tried to deliver \$10,000 worth of perishable seafood to the park and was turned away. Unlike government employees, these folks don't get their backpack when the impasse is over.

The one-two punch of the Rim fire and now the closure of Yosemite National Park make this one of the most economically depressed summer seasons on record. While the Senate obviously prefers a government shutdown to negotiating with the House over ObamaCare, I hope they will at least take pity on the gateway communities of our national parks that depend on tourism for their livelihoods and expeditiously pass this bill.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to Mr. LEVIN from Michigan, the very distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I think it's deeply disturbing that someone comes here and talks about a park. That's important, but a park?

How about the children? How about the kids who need daycare? There are several billion spent on childcare and daycare in this country, and you're shutting it down.

What about health research? You talk about parks. What about health research that involves the needs of people in your districts where there's a park?

You're trying to evade reality. The reality is that you have to let all the hostages go, every single one of them. This Republican shutdown is a disgrace.

Here's what you need to do: face up to it, bring up the Senate bill, and let the majority work its will. The only reason you don't do it is because part of your caucus is being held hostage. Bring it up. Most of us Democrats will vote for it, and more and more Republicans will vote for it, and we will end this shutdown.

No more talk about parks. Let's get over this shutdown.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Montana (Mr. DAINES), that has Glacier National Park in it.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support for the legislation that will reopen our national parks in this country, and I speak as a fifth-generation Montanan. I speak also as a voice of the people from the State of Montana who know that our national parks not only represent an important part of our economy, but also an important part of our national heritage.

We're seeing firsthand, as we are listening to phone calls coming in from constituents across my State, the

undue hardships that the communities surrounding Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks are facing due to Washington, D.C.'s failures.

As a fifth-generation Montanan, I've got great memories of visiting Montana's national parks. In Yellowstone Park, fishing, spending time listening to the elk bugle in September, seeing Old Faithful. In Glacier National Park, there is nothing like going over Going-to-the-Sun highway, watching mountain goats there on Logan Pass.

But communities like Glacier, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, around Yellowstone Park, West Yellowstone, Gardiner, Cooke City, Silver Gate, Livingston, they're being directly affected by these parks being shut down. They depend on these parks for tourism, for economic growth, for jobs.

I'm grateful I raised these concerns this morning to the leadership of the House, and here we are this afternoon responding to these problems and solving them. A little less talk, a lot more action is what is needed. I'm glad we're going to be moving forward here to open up the national parks.

I urge Congress to come together and provide the funding needed to keep our national park gates open.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to Mr. DEFAZIO from Oregon, the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

□ 1715

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman yielding.

Wow, the Republicans just figured out that their irresponsible activities of shutting down the government for political purposes have led to some unpopular things, like closing the national parks. They saw it on television. So, okay. They're going to try to put a bandaid on the national parks.

What about other natural resource agencies? I'm pleased that you're going to do something for the parks. But what about Fish and Wildlife? What about all of our national wildlife preserves? What about the U.S. Forest Service campgrounds, BLM campgrounds?

Today I just met with the chief of the Forest Service. He is suspending all activity for emergency recovery and repairs and anything for restoration on the Rim fire in California and on other fires throughout the West. And he has suspended all activities on any possible potential salvage. This impact is even bigger.

Then what about someone who has just turned 66 and wants to go down and get their Social Security benefits? Well, they can sign up, but they can't get it because they can't process it. What about somebody who is due for treatment at the National Institutes of Health? They're dying of cancer. Well, sorry. They're not taking any more patients.

So you want to put a bandaid on a few things that are getting on television, a few things that sound good.

But you don't want to back off your unbelievably irresponsible, politically motivated shenanigans here about a full closing down of the government of the United States, which is having a real impact to accomplish ends you couldn't accomplish in the last election.

We don't have a system where one-half of one branch of the government gets to dictate to the Senate and the President of the United States and the courts. And that is what you are trying to do.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Idaho has 8½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 4¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, this stunt about helping a few people who are embarrassing the Republicans because of some TV coverage is the wrong thing, I'm telling you.

What about the folks in my district? In the Star Tribune "Hundreds turned away from Social Security office." Hundreds turned away—what about them?

Look, we could reopen the government right now if we put this Senate CR on and pass it and then argue about all that stuff you want to talk about. Open up the government, every bit of it.

Mr. SIMPSON. You say we could reopen the government, yes, if we put the Senate CR on the floor. We could also open it if the Senate would bring up the House CR and pass it. So there are different ways to address this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. It is with great pleasure that I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the very distinguished minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership. I also thank the distinguished chairman of the committee for his leadership and supporting the natural resources of our country.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate did pass the House CR on more than one occasion and sent it back here. Accept what they had on it; they had accepted your number—take "yes" for an answer—a number that even the gentleman from Kentucky, Chairman ROGERS, our distinguished chairman has said does not adequately support government in its purposes of helping the American people.

But nonetheless, in the spirit of going to a conference, they accepted your number, as do I. I said over and over again to the Speaker and on the floor of the House more than once, including this morning, that we make an explicit proposal to you that we accept your CR number and look forward to

going to conference on that number. So it has been accepted.

You haven't taken "yes" for an answer, because why? Because you wanted to undo the Affordable Care Act. And that was the part of your proposal that was unacceptable. And this is exactly what we're doing right now.

This isn't about the parks. They are using the parks as a pawn. This is about defunding the Affordable Care Act on a day when millions of people are logging in to find out how they can enroll. It's really a remarkably historic day, where people can receive the promise of our Founders—of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A healthier life, the liberty to pursue their happiness, and following their passion, whether it's to be in Congress or to be a photographer, an artist, to start their own business, to be self-employed, to change jobs. The entrepreneurial spirit will be unleashed on our country. It's a great day.

So here we are, back on the floor of the House, trying to come in the back window to, once again, go down a path to defund the Affordable Care Act. It's not going to happen.

While we can all sing the praises of our leadership, our chairman, and our ranking member on their support of parks while cutting them off from other services of the Interior Department, that's curious. But it's not about the parks. It's about the Affordable Care Act.

I urge our colleagues to see this for what it is. It's pathetic. It's not responsible. It's beneath the dignity. I keep saying that, but we keep getting further beneath the dignity of what our responsibilities are in this House.

Let us reject this because, you know, they took hostages by shutting down the government. And now they are releasing one hostage at a time. Now it's the parks. Later it's veterans. Our veterans fought for our country, for our children, for our families, for our society. We've already passed an appropriations bill that covers our veterans in that respect. But our veterans need more than what is in the veterans bill. They depend on other services of the United States Government. So if we're honoring our veterans, let us do so in a way that honors what they fought for and honors what they need beyond veterans benefits.

And then they talk about the District of Columbia. I know why you probably don't want to take a vote on the District of Columbia, because I don't know how many people over there will vote to support the District of Columbia. Certainly, certainly it should be treated like any other entity. We would all be in an uproar if our States were treated the way this Congress treats the District of Columbia. But they'll use them as a pawn, too.

This is all subterfuge. This is a waste of time. It's not going anywhere, thank heavens. But what it is is not about what they're talking about—parks, veterans, or the District of Columbia.

It's about the Affordable Care Act. One at a time, we'll do our cherry-picking so at the end of the day, we can isolate the Affordable Care Act. We're not going to let that happen. And let's just deal with our colleagues with some level of integrity as to what this is about.

That's why as tempting, as alluring as their camaraderie of opening up government may be, they're throwing us crumbs while they take the pie someplace else. So I urge a "no" vote on all three of these suspensions.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to remind the gentlelady, my friend from California, that there is a process. And it's called, when the House and the Senate disagree on something, they ask for a conference. And they go to conference and they try to work that out.

But my good friends on the other side of the rotunda chose to say, No, we don't even want to talk about it. We don't care what you want. We don't want to talk about it. And so they were unwilling to go to conference to discuss it.

The other thing I would notice—I don't know that it is beneath the dignity of this House to make sure that when the World War II veterans—who are scheduled to come here tomorrow to fly the colors and celebrate at the World War II Memorial but are presently barricaded out—to make sure that that memorial is open so that they can enjoy it. I don't know that that is beneath the dignity of this House. That is all this bill is trying to do.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the World War II veterans who today sent a clear message that they would not be locked out of their own memorial. This morning, because of the Senate Democrats' unwillingness to negotiate on a deal to fund the government, the National Park Service was ordered to close many of our Nation's monuments, including the National World War II Memorial. These memorials are not regularly closed for any purpose and remain open 24 hours a day. The government went out of their way to ensure Americans could not access their own memorial.

Not to be deterred, a group of veterans on an Honor Flight from Mississippi showed the resolve that made them America's Greatest Generation, moving barricades aside so they could appreciate the memorial that commemorates their generation's heroism and sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, Americans—especially America's heroes—should not be punished because Senate Democrats refused to come to the table and do their job, negotiating a solution to fund the government. The bill before us would reopen America's national monuments and parks so that we, as Americans, can continue to honor our heroes in the manner they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the World War II veterans who made headlines today and the dozen more Honor Flights that will visit the National World War II Memorial this week by passing the bill before us and ensuring that the memorial will be open to welcome our Nation's heroes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today 30 child cancer patients were turned away from NIH's clinical center because three-quarters of the staff was furloughed.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I think everyone here would like to be sure that those World War II veterans can see that memorial. And the way to do that is to put the Senate bill on the floor and pass it right now, which is what would happen. Before the clock strikes midnight, the government shutdown would be over.

Now if the majority persists with this charade, here's what will happen: I'm skeptical that this bill will pass. But if it does, it will go to the Senate, and they start all over again on their mystical magical Senate procedures. Maybe it goes somewhere and maybe it doesn't. Maybe someone filibusters it maybe they don't. If you are serious about opening up the monuments, opening up the NIH, opening up NASA, all the things that you say you want to do, put the Senate bill on the floor, and let the majority work its will. We all know: that bill will pass.

And to the American people, we say about the pain of this government shutdown: this too shall pass.

Mr. SIMPSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on the Rules Committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we are 17 hours into the Republican shutdown of the Nation's government, and the Republican majority has come up with yet another bit of meaningless political theater. This is show business wrapped in spin. And don't take my word for it. Let me read to my colleagues part of a memo that was sent out by the Republican leadership earlier today.

And I quote:

Today the House will begin a strategy of passing limited and targeted funding bills with the goals of being on the offensive and taking away Democratic talking points.

Did you catch that, Mr. Speaker? The Republican goal is not to end the government shutdown. Their goal isn't to come to the table for serious negotiations on the budget. Their goal is to write another press release.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I love national parks. I support them fully, and I want full funding for these parks above the

awful sequester levels. But what about the cancer drug trials at NIH? What about the low-income mother who has been cut off from WIC?

Mr. Speaker, when my kids were little, we used to give them trail mix as a snack. There was granola and raisins and nuts and all kinds of healthy things. But my kids always wanted to pick out the M&Ms. That is what this Republican majority has been reduced to, trying to pick out the M&Ms from the trail mix. Eventually, my kids grew up. I hope the Republican majority will do the same.

We can do this the right way. We can pass a clean CR that has already passed the Senate. It is time for them to put on their grownup pants and do their job.

Mr. SIMPSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, there are millions of visitors every year to the Bureau of Land Management. And yet the entire BLM is closed down because of the shutdown.

I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, so less than 12 hours from where we were last night—maybe a little longer than that—you've discovered that shutting down the government is not as funny as you thought it was when you came from the meeting in the basement. Everybody laughing and talking about how giddy you were about it.

Let me tell you that since all of this has been about trying to kill the health care bill, I simply wanted to put on the record that this morning, in the first 2 hours of the exchange opening in the State of New York, 2 million people logged onto the Web site. I don't have the figures for the rest of the day, but we are off to a smashing start. So I think you guys are going to have some explaining to do.

□ 1730

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Idaho has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, even after we exempt national parks, 81 percent of the entire Interior Department will be furloughed.

I yield the remaining 30 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member.

Two hours ago, one of my constituents showed up in person at my district office in Lakewood. She was frantic and in tears. She just received her furlough notice last night.

She's a Federal employee who has been furloughed 3 days since March. She's a single mom of a 25-year-old and

a grandmother of a 2-year-old, both of whom live with her.

She works hard, goes to work every day, and can't understand why she has to pay the price for these political she-nanigans. I can assure you she's not celebrating like I saw some of my friends on the Republican side last night.

We've got to defeat this piecemeal. We've got real people who are hurt by this shutdown, and we need to take care of it right now and get the CR on the floor.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would urge all my colleagues to support this legislation. In spite of the Democratic majority leader on the other side of the rotunda's shutdown plan, the fact is every Republican wants the government to stay open.

We've passed several bills over to the Senate and asked them to take them up that would have kept the government operating. And at last we said, okay, you won't go for our plans; let's go to conference and talk about it.

But, no, they wouldn't even do that, wouldn't even go to conference to talk with us about it. It was shut it down. That's exactly what they wanted. In fact, all the time leading up to this, the only people talking about shutting down the government were my friends on the other side of the aisle.

Republicans did not want to shut the government down, and so now what we're trying to do is to open up parts of the government and see if we can get some consent on that.

I would have thought my friend from Virginia who loves the national parks just like I do and loves the Smithsonian and knows the importance of it, particularly to this area, would have been persuaded by the \$200 million in revenue that comes in because of the Mall and the tourists that come here. But, apparently, that's not good enough.

What you need to do is quit holding the national parks, the Smithsonian, the Holocaust Museum and others hostage to your desire to shut down the government. That's what's going on here.

You think we're holding the Affordable Health Care Act hostage. You're holding our national parks hostage.

And remember, we've got millions of people that have sat down, made plans to visit their national parks. They may have been planning for 6 months. They may have been planning for several years to save the money to visit Washington, D.C., to visit our Nation's history, or to go to Yosemite or to Glacier National Park or the Grand Canyon. If you've never been there, you need to go to them; but all of a sudden now they can't go.

Do you find it strange that, as Mr. HASTINGS said during his debate, the World War II Memorial is open to the public. There are no doors. There are no gates. You can walk through that at any time, day or night. It is just on the Mall.

Yet when the government is shut down, the Obama administration decided to put a barricade around it. For the first time they put a barricade around it so that you couldn't even walk through it.

We've got World War II veterans planning to come here tomorrow now asking—average 85 years old—they're asking the airline if they can refund their ticket and get them at another time.

If they do it another year, a lot of those 85-year-old people won't be with us. They're coming here because they want to visit their memorial, the World War II Memorial.

But, no, the Obama administration has put barricades around it. Does that sound to you like maybe they're trying to make this as painful as they possibly could?

I think so. All we're trying to do is reopen the national parks, the Holocaust Museum, the Smithsonian and the National Gallery of Art because they're important to the people that want to come here.

Are the other institutions that were mentioned during this debate important?

You bet they are. We would like to open every single one of them; and we will keep trying, in spite of the opposition from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my very good friend.

As my friend understands, the reason why the World War II Memorial was closed down was for security reasons so that no one can damage it because there are no employees able to protect it.

But I really ask sincerely, because you know better than I, about the revenue, \$1 billion that's raised from the Bureau of Land Management. You talked about the hundreds of millions that come in from national parks. BLM raises even more, and yet BLM is being completely furloughed. So we are losing revenue.

Wouldn't my good friend agree that this is not the way to run the government's business or to operate the Interior Department?

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, as I mentioned, this is not the way to run the government, absolutely not the way to run the government. Everyone on this side of the aisle agrees with that.

But the fact is we have a difference between the House and the Senate. And what do you do when you have a difference between the House and the Senate?

Should it have been done 2 months ago?

Sure. It wasn't. We are where we are today, and now we need to sit down and work out the differences between the House and the Senate, and I suspect we

have a difference of opinion of how we came to this point.

Mr. MORAN. I suspect we have an agreement that what we need to do is to pass a clean CR, and that fixes the whole problem so we don't have to do these little bills one after the other. That's what we need, a clean CR.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all my Members to support this to keep our national parks open so that the families and their children can enjoy these national parks, and we will work on the rest of the government, trying to make sure that we get it open and get around this Democratic shutdown of the government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this bill's passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 70.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 71) making continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2014.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 71

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. This joint resolution may be cited as the "District of Columbia Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014".

SEC. 2. (a) The District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading "District of Columbia Funds" for such programs and activities under title IV of H.R. 2786 (113th Congress), as reported by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, at the rate set forth under "District of Columbia Funds--Summary of Expenses" as included in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request Act of 2013 (D.C. Act 20-127), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

(b) Appropriations made by subsection (a) are provided under the authority and conditions as provided under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (division F of Public Law 113-6) and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by such Act.

SEC. 3. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution

shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this joint resolution.

SEC. 4. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

SEC. 5. Expenditures made pursuant to this joint resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 6. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 7. It is the sense of Congress that this joint resolution may also be referred to as the "Provide Local Funding for the District of Columbia Act".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Joint Resolution 71, District of Columbia Continuing Appropriations Resolution, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I bring to the floor today a continuing resolution which is narrow in scope and allows the District of Columbia to spend their own funds.

As some of the Members may be aware, some may not be aware, due to the city's unique status as a Federal city, Congress must appropriate their locally raised funds before the city can spend them.

And despite the multiple attempts by the House of Representatives to fund the Federal Government, we're here in day one of a government shutdown. This continuing resolution provides that the District of Columbia, it gives them their funds through December 15, under the same terms and conditions that they have under the spending bill in 2013.

So passing this bill today will allow the Appropriations Committee time to

negotiate a full year's funding bill with the Senate.

Now, the District of Columbia has passed their own fiscal year 2014 budget. The Mayor presented a budget to the city council. The city council debated that. The city council approved, and the city's independent chief financial officer certified the budget as balanced.

So, therefore, the District's locally raised funds should not be withheld from them during this current Federal shutdown. This disagreement that the Republicans and the Democrats are having over Federal spending shouldn't stop the District from using its own locally raised funds like any other city in America.

The District is currently using reserve balances to stay open. However, we can't expect the District of Columbia to deplete all of its cash reserves to make up for the Federal Government's inability to pass a Federal budget.

We've got school teachers out there, we've got policemen, we've got firemen, we've got garbage collectors, we've got librarians, we've got all these city employees, and they're paid with D.C. local funds, and they should expect to be paid for their services. The citizens of the District of Columbia, they shouldn't suffer because Congress and the administration can't agree on a budget.

So this continuing resolution fulfills our responsibility under the law to appropriate the District of Columbia their local funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise, reluctantly, to oppose this bill. While, of course, we support freeing up D.C. to spend its own local funds, a policy we've asked to be made permanent, this is a sham of a process and a fake bill designed by the Tea Party, for the Tea Party, and of the Tea Party.

It's not a sudden concern or awakening to realize that D.C., this morning, needed all this help. My God, to those of you who've been around for a while, you know that I've made an appropriations career out of telling people to treat the District of Columbia with respect.

And all of a sudden, as part of its continuing attack on ObamaCare, your party comes up now and comes with a piecemeal approach to a major issue.

Instead, it's part of a strategy to try to draw attention away from the legislative hostage-taking which is hurting people around the Nation.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not point out that this bill continues an unnecessary and harmful rider that prevents the District of Columbia from expending its own funds, its own funds, on abortion services. No other State in the Nation has such a restriction.

Although, I repeat, I support D.C. being able to spend its own money, I do

not know why this is the only portion of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee bill being considered to date.

I must tell you, and I don't know how my leadership will feel about this statement, but I've got to give you credit, because just when I thought you had run out of gimmicks to bring to the floor, this one takes the cake, a piecemeal approach of three bills that do not speak to any resolution of any issue.

Many agencies under our jurisdiction have suffered, or will suffer, devastating problems as a result of the Republican Federal Government shutdown; but you're doing nothing about those agencies in this bill.

The Republican shutdown has forced the Small Business Administration to furlough almost two-thirds of its workforce. This has forced the agency to shutter almost all of its loan programs for our Nation's small businesses, including loan programs for veterans, women-owned small businesses, and small businesses located in underserved areas; but you're not saying anything about that in this bill.

The Federal defenders currently have enough funding to continue operations for a couple of weeks. However, once that time is up, they will be unable to fulfill their constitutional duty to uphold the Sixth Amendment rights of criminal defendants; but you don't speak to that at all in this bill.

The CPSC has been cut from 540 employees—listen to this. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been cut from 540 employees to 22, making it difficult for the agency to perform its duty of fully reviewing thousands of different kinds of products. This will clearly increase the risk to the public, but we don't speak to that.

□ 1745

The IRS, the agency that always takes the biggest hit during this period of time, has been forced to let go most of their workforce, preventing the agency from providing taxpayer assistance to those who have questions, examining questionable tax returns, or even to accept paper tax filings. The IRS brings in the vast majority of our Nation's revenue. The Republican shutdown is harming our ability to pay our bills.

All of these agencies need and deserve a continuing resolution so they can perform the many functions of government that remain essential to American consumers, investors, taxpayers, and small businesses.

Let me try to save you some time. Some of you newer folks will get up and say: Oh, my God, you are attacking the District of Columbia. No one, except for Ms. NORTON, has a clearer record on supporting the District of Columbia. I have said often enough on this floor that having been born in an American territory called Puerto Rico, I take very seriously how I look at and

the respect that I have for the District of Columbia. But this is a joke. This is simply another approach at trying to get around the real issue, which is we need to bring a clean CR to the floor, and we will continue to push for that.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill when it comes for a vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I'm just surprised to hear my friend say it's okay that the citizens of the District of Columbia suffer just because Congress can't figure out how to fund the government.

With that, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to keep the District of Columbia operating as usual while Congress works to sort out its fiscal differences. I have to admit I'm really surprised to hear my good friend from New York—and we are good friends—oppose this bill.

This bill provides for the District of Columbia to use its money to provide the services that we all enjoy in this Capital City. I can't believe the gentleman would oppose this bill. This is a clean funding mechanism, nearly identical to what was included in the initial clean continuing resolution I introduced on September 10.

This legislation gives the District access to local funding at the current annual rate of \$6.8 billion until December 15 or until full-year appropriations have been signed into law. This funding is solely local and does not come out of the Federal coffers. These funds will support critical District programs that its people rely on—law enforcement, safety, schools, and other essential municipal activities. I can't believe that I'm hearing opposition to this from that side of the aisle—or any side of any aisle.

This legislation will help clean up one portion of the difficulties caused by a shutdown, and it makes one more critical next step toward reopening the entire Federal Government. Let me say again that on this side of the aisle we offered to the Senate three or four different propositions to keep the government operating. They turned them all down.

Finally, last night we said: Okay, if you won't agree to any of these provisions, let's at least form a conference committee between the House and Senate, as is the usual process, which is time honored. Let's just meet in the rotunda, House and Senate conferees, and work out the differences that we have. That's what we've done around here in the past. The Senate said: No, we don't even want to talk to you. And so here we are. When the Senate said we won't talk, the shutdown took place, triggered by the Senate's refusal to even talk to Members of the House.

We've got to keep our eyes on the prize—and that's providing each and every agency, program, and department with full-year, updated appropriations, and ending this shutdown as soon as possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the greatest State in the Union, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican shutdown. Of course we support funding for the District of Columbia, but the House has not had that opportunity because Republicans couldn't even put the financial services bill on the floor. Why is resuming services in D.C. now more important than extending funding for Head Start or childcare assistance across the country?

Funding one budget item at a time while hundreds of thousands of Americans are on furlough and losing pay is no way to fulfill our constitutional responsibility to keep the government running or to grow our economy. The bill we are considering now is nothing more than a Republican ploy. It would not be necessary if Republicans had not been so reckless throughout the budgetary process, forcing us into a shutdown.

We could end the Republican shutdown today if the majority would only allow a vote on the Senate-passed bill to keep the government running, which includes the funding levels that Republicans support and would be signed by the President.

The House majority apparently can't take the heat from the fire they lit, so now they have put forward this reckless political attempt to shift blame for the Republican shutdown. Ending the shutdown couldn't be more simple: stop playing games; pass the reasonable bill the Senate and the White House have already agreed to.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to remind folks that we could have avoided this shutdown if the Senate had passed the first resolution we passed them. That would have avoided a shutdown. If they had passed the second continuing resolution, that would have avoided a shutdown. If they had passed the third continuing resolution we passed to them, that would have avoided the shutdown. If they would agree to sit down and talk, we might even find a way to end this shutdown.

But I just hope everybody remembers that for Republicans, the last thing we want to do is be shut down. We go it. We would like to sit down and talk. But the arrogance of the United States Senate says we can't even talk.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It's very interesting to hear my colleague, Mr. Speaker, speak about that. I wish we had recorded him—maybe we have—how many times Mrs. LOWEY got up during appropriations meetings and said, Let's go to conference. In fact, once, she said it in Spanish, just to please me. That's how serious it's been.

All of a sudden, the big cry on the Hill is, Let's go to conference. But let's not really go to conference. Let's just go to conference and do what we want to do and not what should be done.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this Republican shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this Tea Party government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) for a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this reckless government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, point of order. At what point does this become dilatory activity inconsistent with the decorum of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to entertain proper unanimous consent requests.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's ever dilatory for Members of Congress to speak.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this unnecessary government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this ridiculous Republican government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this Republican government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR that would end this Republican government shutdown because Congress needs to do its job and put thousands of dedicated government workers back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

The Chair will recognize Members for proper unanimous consent requests, but not speeches.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean continuing resolution that would end this unconscionable government shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), a person who we all know has been a champion on behalf of not only the District, but all areas of our country.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York.

This debate is already heartbreaking to me. Every time I hear the District of Columbia mentioned in the same breath with other appropriations on either my side of the aisle, you are cast-

ing this city precisely where it cannot be cast—as just another Federal appropriation.

This is a living, breathing city, and the notion of holding up our budget under any circumstances or not distinguishing between the District of Columbia appropriations—a local budget and not one of your 12 appropriations; a local budget—and the other budgets is breaking my heart. It puts me in an impossible position.

□ 1800

I have a greater number of Federal employees than any part of this region. And of course, because I must support this piecemeal approach, when it comes to this D.C. continuing resolution, I'm leaving them behind. Well, what am I to do? What would you do if your local budget were here? Would you mention it in the same breath as the HHS budget, or the Labor Department budget, or the VA budget?

I was here when there was a piecemeal approach, and it was painful. After the District was shut down for 1 week, I went to Speaker Newt Gingrich and I said, please don't do that again for the District. There were CRs and there were bills, but each and every time Newt kept the District open after that. So I'm asking, keep the District open. Don't dare compare us to your appropriations.

I understand the resentment on my side about what is being done here, but carry out your resentment without putting us in the position of a thing, nothing but another piece of federal appropriation that you have something to do with. It's \$8 billion in local money, not one dime of Federal money. It shouldn't be here. If it's here, everybody in this Chamber ought to be doing everything that you can to get it out of here.

One hundred twenty Democrats signed my letter—and I thank each and every one of you—to the leadership to say: Free the District budget; don't close the city down. What the mayor is doing now is cobbling things together, a piecemeal approach of his own. With contingency funds, he's keeping the District of Columbia government running. But that's going to run out in a few days. When it does, my friends, guess what happens? We can't appropriate a dollar, even if he declares that D.C. employees are all essential, without running into the Antideficiency Act. So we face default on our contracts because apparently neither side can tell the difference between a city and an appropriation of a Federal Government. I ask you, please, do not leave us in that position.

This resolution only keeps us open until December 15. How pitiful. So we'll be back again begging and pleading? It's on the floor now only because I have begged and pleaded the majority—and yes, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, the chairman of our committee. Yes, that's what I've done, to say please bring it any way you can, bring it to the floor.

I lived through a shutdown of the District of Columbia once. What makes this most frustrating to me today is that we have worked hard, and now have bicameral, bipartisan support for shutdown-avoidance legislation for the District of Columbia. The President put it in his budget. The chairman of the full committee, Mr. ISSA, has a bill that would keep the District from shutting down and go even further. The Appropriations Committee deferred to the authorizers, but said it believed that shutdowns hurt the District of Columbia. And the Senate appropriation bill has shutdown-avoidance language in it for the District of Columbia.

No Member has come to the floor to justify closing down the District, and I do not believe there is a Republican or a Democrat that wants to shut down the District of Columbia.

So yes, when the time comes to vote, there are going to be three bills. I am asking you to distinguish between the other appropriations and ours so that you know the difference between a city with its own money and a Federal appropriation. Please vote to keep the District of Columbia running until December 15.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the distinguished chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, if I could yield my time to the gentlelady from the District of Columbia, she would probably say these words better than I can. But ELEANOR, thank you; thank you for your impassioned speech.

Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia is different. Every Member, who in just a few minutes will vote on this piece of legislation, has the right to vote because we are from States. And every State in the Union is continuing to collect revenue and spend it as we fiddle.

Here in the District of Columbia, it is different. The District of Columbia is the only place here in the United States in which full citizens—undeniably citizens of the United States, with every right and privilege, including voting in every Presidential election—find themselves shut down if we don't pass a budget, if we don't pass appropriations.

Now, I heard the gentleman from New York, regrettably, lump in this bill with his opinion as though all three were the same. First of all, this is not a Tea Party bill. This is a bill inspired by both the majority and minority, under Ms. NORTON's leadership, to come up with a solution similar to what we came up with 17 years ago for the District. This is also inspired by a similar bill that is sitting in the Senate that wants to accomplish the same thing.

This is not Tea Party. As a matter of fact, the easiest thing to do, if you want to be strident, would be in fact to shut down the District. But every one

of us who knows that, back home, our States and our cities continue to operate with their own funds knows that we have an obligation to allow the District of Columbia to spend their own funds.

I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. CRENSHAW, and the chairman of the full committee for bringing this quickly to the floor.

Some months ago, we passed H.R. 2793, which would address this on a permanent basis, finding a way for—anytime this happens—the District of Columbia to continue spending its own money, and to plan their budget around the possibility that they would be offering jobs to teachers and so on during a time different than our budget year. I hope to have that bill on the floor in the reasonably near future.

But today, Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Chairman DARRELL ISSA, Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS, and all of us on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform have already voted for this and more. And the Senate has supported this and more.

So you're not looking at the same as the other bills. Not one penny of appropriated funds actually is being determined today. We're talking about the money from the parking meters. We're talking about the money from property taxes. We're talking about the work that Mayor Gray and the city council do every day like the mayors of our city.

I talked to the mayor today, and he said: I don't know what you're going to do, but please do something. Mayor Gray deserves to have his funds overseen—because it's a Federal city? Yes. But kidnapped? No.

This is a narrow bill; it is not what I want to achieve for the District of Columbia. But it is in fact what gets us from now to December.

So I ask my friends on both sides of the aisle—and I will work my side of the aisle, and ELEANOR, I know you're not leaving the floor on this one—we have to pass this overwhelmingly because we're talking about the same right to spend their own money as every city in America has, every country in America, and every State in America. And as Americans, we can do no less for the people of the District of Columbia.

Mr. SERRANO. I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the politricks have to stop. The politricks have to stop.

Today, I looked at one of my leading New York papers and this is the headline. This is what they are thinking of this House. The politricks have to stop. The divide and conquer mentality has to stop.

Why is it politricks? Look at what's really taking place here today and has been taking place over the last few days. We should be just, as other Congresses have done, passing a clean CR

bill so that we can continue the government moving. But what do we do? We bring up issues that have nothing to do with the continuing resolution.

The first trick: repeal the Affordable Care Act. The second trick: delay the Affordable Care Act. The trick after that: delay the individual mandate. Then next you hear something: end the medical device tax. Then the next thing is: go to conference—something that Democrats have been asking for on budgetary issues since April. And now this piecemeal approach.

It's politricks, folks. It's divide and conquer. It's trying to take key issues from key individuals and make them decide whether you want to go this way or that way. It's making individuals try to decide in the Federal Government who is more important than the others.

You've got individuals working in the same divisions; some won't get paid, others will get paid. It's a divide and conquer mentality that could destroy the Nation. This Nation is supposed to be one together. United we stand. Don't divide this country. Don't pick winners and losers. Send all of Americans back to work.

Eight hundred thousand did not work today. Don't just pick a few and say you should go back to work. All of them should go back to work. They are all American citizens.

Let all of Americans free. Don't hold them in bondage, don't keep them back. Free them all. Don't go piece by piece. They all want the same thing. Their bills have to be paid.

I have to tell some of mine on my staff, for example: If you happen to get sick, you can't get paid. That's not what this country is supposed to be about.

The world is looking at us. We travel the world trying to show examples of democracy every place else, yet we're undercutting the greatest democracy in the world today over the last couple of days. We've got procedures that were put in place by the Founding Fathers. We are undercutting how they said we should do it.

Let's not divide. Let's bring this Nation back together. Let's send all of our workers back to work. Let's have a clean CR bill, and let's vote on that.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 10 minutes remaining; the gentleman from New York has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH).

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Because of the demands of extremists in Congress, today, in communities across our country crucial services have halted. Hundreds of thousands of middle class employees have been told

to stay home without pay. All because Congress has failed to carry out the most basic of its constitutional duties—to keep this government funded.

The bills we will be considering tonight will not fix the government shutdown. I am the first to support our military men and women and our veterans. Ensuring our citizens have access to their national parks is a priority. And I am a cosigner of the letter for the gentlelady from the District of Columbia asking for the city to be able to continue to be open and do its work. However, this piecemeal approach will only prolong a shutdown.

We cannot keep government running piece by piece. All—not just some—of my constituents deserve service.

I urge the House leadership to end the shutdown today by passing the continuing resolution that was approved by the Senate, and then get together to conference on a long-term budget that reduces deficit reduction and creates jobs.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, just to inform the gentleman, I am the last speaker. We have no further speakers.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I know I've already spoken, but as I talked to my friend, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, the delegate made an impassioned plea to me, and it needs to be said.

We need to pass this. We need to pass this to show that we can in fact—maybe not agree on everything, maybe not agree on appropriations, but we need to pass this because the District deserves not to be held hostage in our fight. I will whip every Republican to vote “yes” on this bill.

I can't say that I'm going to intervene in everything that we do, but this one is important. I would ask all of us to really search our soul and say: Is the District of Columbia and their own funds the place we should be having an argument, or can we at least admit that if we get above the fray here today—the Senate has already gotten above it.

□ 1815

A similar bill has already been hot-lined. This is not where the House and the Senate disagree and, as a result, it should not be where we fail to come together.

I ask all my friends to join with ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and me and pass this bill.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This is not an easy time. You would hate to think that 23 years of agreeing with Ms. NORTON on the issue of the D.C. budget and how we should treat D.C. goes up in smoke in one afternoon. We have never disagreed, and I know that starting in about 30 seconds or 1 minute or 2 minutes, we won't disagree again.

But we also cannot be ignorant of the fact that this is a sham, that this is part of a trick. It is a good trick; it is one that sells. In fact, the results may show that it is one that sells, but it is still a trick. It is a trick still to get at ObamaCare on the day that it starts to take place all over this country. It is still a trick to keep the government closed. It is a trick to say that we will single out certain people, certain monuments, certain areas, certain needs, but not others.

It is easy for me personally to say “yes” to this bill on the District of Columbia. But I also know that in another territory or in another place without congressional representation, they had to close down this morning the WIC offices because there are no people to be able to run that office. In other parts that do have representation, they had to close down areas of services where people need those services.

We know what the game is. I know it is not easy for some of us to get up and oppose certain things, but we have to. We have to because if we continue to allow the House to be run by a Member of the other body, we will never get anywhere. It is funny how much time we spend among ourselves knocking the other body, and yet we have a situation now where a Member of the other body is telling everybody over here what to do on one side. That's the problem we have.

As painful as this is for me and as difficult as it will be to stay out of the way of Ms. NORTON for the next day or two, I still think that the proper vote here is a “no” vote because we need a clean CR and we need a full approach, not a piecemeal approach.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This is a bill that talks about the most unique city in our country, the District of Columbia. It is a Federal city. It is unlike any other city in the USA. Because of that uniqueness, we have to appropriate the local funds that are going to be used.

The gentlewoman from the District has made an impassioned plea—a very clear and reasoned plea—as to why we need to pass this legislation. There are school teachers, there are police officers, there are folks that are picking up the garbage, there are people that work in the libraries, and they are working and they need to be paid for their services.

We shouldn't penalize the people of the District of Columbia because we can't come to some conclusion on our spending bills. We don't have to be here, Mr. Speaker. We have had ample opportunity.

As you know, this House has sent continuing resolutions to the Senate not once, not twice, but three times. Each time the answer was “no.” Now we simply ask for a conversation, for a reasoned discussion, about how we can end this shutdown. Once again, the answer is “no.”

It is disappointing, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I am sure we are all a little bit angry, but we're here. The least we can do is pass this resolution. It fulfills our responsibility under the law. It appropriates to the District of Columbia the funds that they have raised locally. It is the right thing to do, and I urge the adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the House Republicans' piecemeal Continuing Resolution to fund the District of Columbia Government during the shutdown they inflicted yesterday on our Nation.

This body would do the District of Columbia a great service by allowing its esteemed and very knowledgeable Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON a vote in this chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia had an estimated population of 632,323 in 2012. The state of Wyoming with 2 Senators and a voting member of the House of Representatives had a population of 576,412 in 2012.

It is the 24th most populous place in the United States.

The Washington Metropolitan Area, of which the District is a part, has a population of 5.7 million, the seventh-largest metropolitan area in the country.

Perhaps this is the day that members of the majority decided they wanted to do a little something for people they could see every day of the legislative work week. But our job is to look out for the interest of everyone in the Nation—those we can see as well as the hundreds of millions who we cannot see.

Urban areas around the Nation need exactly, or perhaps in some cases more than, the assistance we would be providing to the District of Columbia though this CR, but they will not be helped unless we pass the Senate's Clean CR.

The House should take up the clean Senate Continuing Resolution to fund the entire government.

If we only fund what the House majority wants then they will have no need to worry about funding the parts of the government that they do not like, which includes the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, the Internal Review Service, the Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, negotiation requires honest compromise and knowing what not to ask the other party to give up. The majority knows that the Affordable Care Act is non-negotiable for the President, the Senate, or the overwhelming majority of Americans who supported it in the past and who are supporting it today by joining the Healthcare Marketplace health plans.

The clean CR passed by the Senate ensures that all the employees of the Federal Government are paid and that important things like our parks are open and our children are fed.

Mr. Speaker, instead of exempting certain groups and persons from the harm caused by a government shutdown, we should instead be focused on reopening the government as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 71.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 72

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Amounts are provided for entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113-6), to continue activities at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, to be continued through the date specified in section 103(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 103, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2013 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 103(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 102. Amounts are provided for "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" at a rate for operations of \$2,455,490,000: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available subject to the authority and conditions as provided under the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113-6) and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by such Act.

SEC. 103. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 with-

out any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

SEC. 104. It is the sense of Congress that this joint resolution may also be referred to as the "Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act".

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on House Joint Resolution 72, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Throughout human history, whenever there has been disagreement in ages, ages past, that has been settled with armed conflict. But in a civilized world, we settle those disputes in an amicable way under the law.

In this remarkable House Chamber, we are surrounded by images of great lawmakers from throughout human history. It is, I think, incumbent upon us as lawmakers, as civilized human beings, to use a little common courtesy and common sense to find areas of agreement and set those aside, get those behind us, and then move on to those areas where it is more difficult to find agreement.

In the House of Representatives, the constitutional conservative majority in the House has attempted to do so many times here over the last several weeks. When it comes to funding the government, the House of Representatives has sought to do so and, in fact, has done our job.

In the first week of June, the House of Representatives passed legislation to fully fund the Department of Defense. In the first week of June, the House of Representatives passed legislation to fully fund our Department of Veterans Affairs and Military Construction requirements of our men and women in uniform around the world.

We also made sure in the first month of the summer that the House of Representatives passed legislation to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and sent that to the Senate as well. We have even passed an appropriations bill to fund the departments of the government that are responsible for the Department of Energy and the Department of Water. That legislation was also passed out of the House this summer and sent to the Senate.

It is common courtesy and just common sense that where you have a dis-

agreement, you sit down and you work it out. If you've got serious disagreements, you, again, find those areas where both sides can agree there is common ground and put those behind us.

What better place to start, Mr. Speaker, than with the veterans who have served our Nation in defense of our freedom who make it possible for us to enjoy the prosperity, the liberty passed on to us by our ancestors. It is a real privilege for me to serve with my good friend from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) and my colleagues on this subcommittee for appropriating funds for the operation of the Veterans Affairs and Military Construction to be sure that our veterans receive everything that they have earned for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of this Nation.

So we have brought the bill to the floor today as an obvious area of agreement in support of our veterans to ensure that not only are their health benefits taken care of, which under current law they are a year in advance, but we are here today to ensure, to absolutely guarantee, that there is no interruption to the veterans who are applying for disability compensation.

We have had a terrible backlog in disability claims that the committee has worked together arm in arm in a bipartisan way to ensure that it is fully funded. We included in our bill, which was sent to the Senate in the first week of June, language that would ensure that the Veterans Administration lives up to their own deadlines on handling those disability claims.

But the legislation before us today would also ensure that veterans receive on-time compensation for their pensions, for their post-9/11 education training, and employment assistance. Again, common courtesy and common sense compels us to do what is right by our veterans to find those areas of agreement.

We bring this bill to the floor today, Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure that these veterans are fully protected, that they have a transition into civilian life that is as easy as humanly possible, and that they don't encounter any delays as they move into civilian life.

This bill, as the other does, provides funding through December 15 for VA disability claims, education, and employment benefits and provides \$2.5 billion for claims processing to make sure that we are getting at the claims backlog.

I look forward to hearing from my colleague from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This, I believe, is really a fraud. This is just a part of the simple game that has been played to justify keeping this government shut. The proposed rate of \$2.5 billion is the same amount provided in the House-passed MilCon-VA bill earlier this summer, which passed

421-4. It is the same funding request level by the administration.

This CR does not touch or do anything for the remaining VA discretionary accounts. In fact, the CR fails to include \$155 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System. It fails to include \$136 million for the Veterans Claims Intake Program. These two programs are vital to speeding up the claims process; yet they are not included.

The medical research account, not included; construction, major and minor, not included; Office of the Secretary, including the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$438 million, not included; the VA Office of Inspector General, \$116 million, not included; the VA IT, \$13.68 billion, not included; grants to State veterans homes, to State cemeteries, the National Cemetery Administration, not included.

On June 4, we passed a full bill, a complete bill, a bipartisan bill 421-4. Mr. Speaker, if this measure goes on to become law, which I doubt that it will, a majority of the Federal Government will still be shut down.

For example, the Department of Defense will not have the materiel support needed to conduct training to ensure their readiness for the forces at home. Regular training exercises, including large-scale training rotations, depend on equipment that is in proper working order, facilities that have been properly maintained, and supplies needed to support the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen in their training efforts.

Under this bill, pay would still be denied to more than 42,500 fellow law enforcement agencies and correctional workers at the Department of Justice, 4,000 weather forecasters and other National Weather Service employees. On extreme weather events, we won't have employees to protect us.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we don't have the luxury to pick and choose which parts of the Federal Government we want to fund. It is our responsibility under the Constitution to fund the entire Federal Government. Let me repeat: the entire Federal Government. So, instead of playing games, let the House of Representatives vote on a clean Senate CR and end this shutdown very quickly.

I am disappointed. I am downright disgusted. I truly resent the way that those on the other side of the aisle are trying to use veterans as pawns in this cynical game of government shutdown. All we have to do is pass a clean CR. This CR—this budget—should not be a Democrat CR, and it should not be a Republican CR. It should be an American CR for all of us. I urge that we defeat this cynical effort and that we adopt a full, clean CR.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to yield 3

minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and in support of continuing to provide our Nation's veterans with the important benefits they have earned for their service and their sacrifices. I am shocked to hear our friends on the other side of the aisle who are unwilling to help our veterans receive the benefits that they have earned in the defense of our Nation. For their unwavering commitment to this Nation, our veterans deserve to receive consistent, quality service and disability benefits. Any lapse in these services for our heroes is a failure on our part to do our jobs as Members of Congress.

I would like to remind the House that the language in this bill was essentially included in the clean continuing resolution I initially offered several weeks ago. For that reason, as well as my dedication to our veterans, I am happy to endorse this bill today.

The legislation before us continues funding to process and deliver disability claims and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs for those who have served in our Armed Forces, at the current annual rate of approximately \$82 billion. The funding will last until December 15 or until we enact full-year appropriations.

In addition to providing for our former servicemen and -women, this bill will continue to move the ball down the field, closer to our ultimate goal of funding the entire government. Conversations must continue on how we as an entire Congress can come to an agreement that funds every agency and department, that ends this shutdown and reopens the government.

That's why I was so disappointed this morning when the U.S. Senate declared that they didn't want to meet with us to talk about how to end this shutdown. We offered to sit down and talk in a conference committee. The Senate at 9:30 brusquely says, No way. We don't want to talk to you. I thought that's what Congress was all about, was working out differences from this body across to the Senate, but, apparently, I am wrong.

I urge my colleagues to support our veterans and to take the next step toward ending this unnecessary government shutdown. Pass this bill today.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican shutdown.

Of course we support the funding for our veterans. The proper way to do that, as our distinguished chairman knows, is to fulfill our constitutional

responsibility—make the hard decisions and pass regular appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman knows, the House already passed in June a full-year funding bill for veterans by a vote of 421-4. As our distinguished chairman knows, that bill is \$6.2 billion more than today's bill. So our veterans, as a result of this shutdown process, are going to have their funds cut by \$6.2 billion. We need to pass a bill that helps them and that funds other critical initiatives. As our distinguished chairman knows, we could do this. We could pass these bills by regular order and prevent children from being part of clinical trials.

I just got an email from Francis Collins of the National Institutes of Health. Nearly three-quarters of the staff were furloughed. About 200 patients who otherwise would be admitted to the NIH clinical trials each week will be turned away. This includes about 30 children, most of them cancer patients. We know this is not the only place. It's Head Start, and it's funds for transportation. We've heard that. We can go on and on.

We could do this because there is a process in place. We don't need to shut down the government and invent new ways to pass these appropriations bills. Funding one budget item at a time while hundreds of thousands of Americans are on furlough and are losing pay is no way to fulfill our constitutional responsibility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. LOWEY. The bill we are considering today is nothing more than a Republican ploy. It would not be necessary if Republicans had not been so reckless throughout the budgetary process, forcing us into a shutdown. We could end the Republican shutdown today if the majority would only allow a vote on the Senate-passed bill to keep the government running, which includes the funding levels that the Republicans support and that would be signed by the President. The House majority, apparently, can't take the heat from the fire they lit, so now they've put forward this reckless political attempt to shift blame for their shutdown.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to point out that, as I said earlier, with any disagreement, you find those areas in which you are in agreement. You come to an agreement and make sure you get the most important things done first and set them aside. The House and the Senate have actually done that.

We note that our military has been paid. Legislation to fully pay for our military was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate, and it was passed out of this House. I would also reiterate that the House has done its job in

funding our veterans in passing this legislation in the first week of June and in funding our Department of Defense in the first week of June. We have done our part.

This shutdown that we face today is a deliberate result of the Senate's refusal to take action on the legislation that we sent them over 90 days ago, and that's why we are bringing this bill to the floor today, because this is one area in which we can all agree. Our veterans have earned our help, and they deserve our help. It is our duty to pass this bill as quickly as possible to ensure no interruption in the services that they have earned by their service to this Nation.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE).

Mr. NUNNELEE. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding time, but I also thank him for his leadership on behalf of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the House and the Senate have already passed a measure that would pay for our troops in the middle of this government shutdown, and it's proper that we do this.

This morning, I had the privilege of meeting with 91 veterans from all over the State of Mississippi, who were in our Nation's Capital as part of an Honor Flight. When we arrived at the World War II Memorial, we found the entrance was blocked because of the government shutdown. Now, for these heroes of the Greatest Generation—those men who stormed the beaches of Normandy while facing German machine gun nests, those men who saw their friends die on Iwo Jima—even though these heroes may now be confined to wheelchairs, a few Park Service barricades were no obstacle.

It was my privilege to meet with them at the memorial that has been built in their honor. But the real way that our Nation pays tribute and thanks them for their service is for us to keep our commitment to them, our commitment in the form of VA benefits, of health care benefits, of disability benefits. Let us not fail those who have sacrificed so much for our Nation by failing to ensure that our veterans are provided the benefits and the services that they have earned. That's why I rise in support of this bill.

Our obligation to our troops does not end when a war is over, and we must ensure that our military men and women are provided with the care and the benefits they deserve both during and after their service. We have all agreed to unanimously fund this generation's military. Let us also agree to fund that of the previous generation's.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank my friend for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill we are about to vote on is as unnecessary as it is dis-

ingenuous. My congressional district is highly populated by veterans whose service and sacrifices are greatly appreciated. That is why I came to this floor on June 4 and enthusiastically joined with 420 other Members of this auspicious body to keep our obligations to them at higher levels than are included in this legislation.

Last night, the Tea Party Republicans shut down the government because they refuse to accept the verdict of the American people in last year's election. They shut down our government over the implementation of settled law—a position that polling shows that 72 percent of the American people oppose. Now they are using our patriotic heroes as pawns in their petty, partisan, political game.

Veterans should not have to choose between having their claims processed and their grandchildren educated. Their family members should be able to receive their medical treatments and enjoy our national treasures.

This piecemeal approach is the Tea Party's plan. They want to pick and choose winners and losers and only fund the priorities that they like. That's not how our government works.

As one of my favorite Republicans stated back in 1860, President Abraham Lincoln:

Your purpose, plainly stated, is that you will destroy the government unless you be allowed to construe and enforce the Constitution as you please on all points in dispute. You will rule or ruin in all events.

We should end this reckless stunt tonight. Let's reject this partisan gamesmanship and reopen our government like honorable men and women.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the only people who would be holding our veterans hostage would be those who would vote "no" against this legislation which we have brought to the floor today in an earnest, honest, commonsense, courteous way to ensure that our veterans are given everything they need for the service they have given this country.

It is my privilege at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), who is the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act. Let me explain why this bill is necessary.

Last weekend, the administration revised an initial shutdown contingency plan with the following statement relating specifically to the effect that a prolonged shutdown would have on the VA:

VA has accepted VBA claims processors so that it can continue to process claims. Beneficiaries will continue to receive their payments. However, those benefits are provided through appropriated mandatory funding, and that funding will run out by the end of October. At that point, VA will be unable to make any payments.

□ 1845

What this means is that absent a deal on a CR—and we have anxiously awaited the Senate to do something over there, negotiate with the House—payments to veterans and their survivors that are due in November for a variety of benefits that have been earned by that veteran through honorable service may, in fact, be in jeopardy. That would mean a suspension of over a billion dollars per month in GI Bill tuition payments to nearly 1 million veterans or their dependents. It would end the subsistence allowance to over 66,000 disabled veterans in vocational rehabilitation programs. It would cease payments to low-income wartime veterans with incomes that are just above the poverty level. It would end dependency and indemnity compensation to the surviving loved ones of servicemembers and veterans who died as a result of their service.

Mr. Speaker, this must never, ever be allowed to happen. Even more veterans and their loved ones should not even have to worry about something like this occurring. This bill would immediately remove any doubt from their minds that the dysfunction that's here in Washington would, in fact, jeopardize their earned benefits. These are America's heroes who have already gone above and beyond the call of duty. The last thing they deserve is for the country they courageously defended to abandon them in their time of need.

This bill will avoid all the calamitous events that I've mentioned, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee of Homeland Security.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people have had enough of this cynical attempt to shift blame for the Tea Party shutdown.

Of course we want the American people to have access to our national parks, and I wish our Republican colleagues had thought a little bit more about that World War II Memorial before doing what they did last night.

Of course we want the D.C. government to continue to function. Why weren't Ms. NORTON's compelling arguments given more attention before what our Republican colleagues did last night?

Of course we want the Veterans Administrations to resume their operations for those who have worn this country's uniform, although we do not like seeing our veterans used to score political points.

What about the thousands of Department of Defense civilians who were told not to come into work today, including those in my district who serve Fort Bragg? What about those EPA scientists in the research triangle who spent today on a community service

project instead of conducting important research on air quality or the firefighters across the Nation who depend on FEMA grants to keep their communities safe? What about those Agriculture Department-funded researchers at NC State whose paychecks are running out? What about the NIH researchers at Duke and UNC whose grants are under threat, or those desperately ill people who will now be cut out of NIH clinical trials?

The American people deserve a government that works for everybody. The Senate has passed a responsible, bipartisan funding bill that would pass this House easily if the Republican leadership would simply allow it to receive a vote.

Let's dispense with this political theater. Let's get back to the basics: keeping the government open, paying the country's bills, and negotiating a comprehensive budget plan that lifts sequestration, that revives our economy and reduces our deficit. The first step is to pass a clean continuing resolution.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, can you tell me how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 7¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, it's with great emotion that I rise today.

First of all, we're right in the midst of a government shutdown, and this is a terrible time. Second of all, this is my greatest hero's birthday; it was my father's birthday, October 1.

My dad passed away about 5 years ago. He was part of the Greatest Generation, as denoted by Tom Brokaw. He fought bravely in New Guinea during World War II, and he represented his country proudly.

My son-in-law is a captain in the Army. He's the father of my four grandchildren in Stuttgart, Germany. My nephew is an Army Ranger who has fought proudly in Afghanistan. It is for them that I rise today.

Make no mistake, the other side today says that they want to support these things, but they don't. Why? Because it's political posturing. They don't want to mitigate the pain because that might somehow hurt their ability to try to extract whatever they can politically.

Our constituents don't live in political rhetoric land. They live in the land where the rubber meets the road.

Let's be really clear: You have an opportunity on the other side of the aisle to fund the veteran programs, and you're going to be held accountable for that. If you vote "no," that's where the rubber meets the road. You'll be responsible for denying them these benefits.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman

from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a Member of this House who does not respect and support the veterans of this country.

The gentleman who just spoke talked about preventing pain. What we want to do is prevent pain not only to veterans, but to children, to families, to teachers, to medical professionals, to farmers, to all those who every day rely on the Federal Government to be in operation—not piecemeal, not choosing between this and that, between the winners and the losers.

Why are we at this place? Why, as the gentlelady, the ranking member of this committee said, are we at a place where we're presenting a bill that cuts \$6 billion from the bill you talked about, that I voted for and you voted for? I speak, of course, of the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, we are here because of the pain that has been visited not by the Senate. The Senate passed the only CR that didn't have a poison pill, the CR—we talk in this jargon—keeping government operating for the American people, the only body that's passed a bill that will do that that didn't include a poison pill that you knew the other side could not take and would not take and the President said he would not sign. You continue to not come to grips with the loss of the election.

You need a compromise. You would not go to conference. You talked about going to conference at 5 minutes of 12 a.m. last night. You've had 6 months to go to conference. For 6 months, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have had the opportunity of going to conference. Mr. VAN HOLLEN, I'm sure, will talk about that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOYER. It's been 6 months and no action. That's why we have had this gridlock, because you have refused to go, as you talk about the regular order, to work out an agreement between the Senate and the House. So we find ourselves where we need more time.

We have tried to provide for 6 weeks, between now and November 15, to try to work together to get to compromise and pass appropriation bills—and not in piecemeal. I don't know that I've seen an appropriation bill on a suspension before.

Mr. Speaker, this is the wrong process, it's the wrong time, and we ought to pass a CR and keep government operating for the American people.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, there's only one question before the House tonight: Will we unify in support of our veterans and ensure their peace of mind for themselves, their families, and their survivors, that they don't miss a moment of the benefits that they've so rightly earned?

At this time, it's my privilege to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, today veterans in northern Michigan and across the country woke up to the news that the United States Government had shut down. The government that they served, risked their lives for, could possibly further delay the disability claims process. This simply isn't fair.

As the House has offered four times, I might add, plans to keep the government open, the Senate continues to reject our offers and insists on shutting down the government. Last night they refused to even sit down and have a reasonable discussion with us.

As we work toward a solution, it is vital that those who have risked it all be able to continue to receive the services that they need.

Mr. Speaker, I've been a doctor for over 30 years. I've treated veterans at the VA hospital at Iron Mountain on a regular basis. I don't know how any Member in this body could think for even 1 minute that we should turn away our servicemembers.

I urge my colleagues to support the Honoring Our Promise to Veterans Act.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. As the Speaker knows, a number of Members of Congress have asked unanimous consent to proceed to the Senate and pass the so-called "clean CR." I want to understand the rule.

My understanding is that if the Democratic leader and the Republican leader both give their consent to that, then that bill would come before the body now; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The request for consideration of certain measures must receive clearance from both sides.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So to further clarify, if both Democrats and Republicans were to agree to bring the Senate-passed CR before this House, it would come up for a vote now; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would entertain a request only if prior appropriate clearance had been given.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, when you say prior appropriate approval, do you mean approval from the Republican leader and the Democratic leader?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Leadership from both sides of the aisle must provide clearance.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the current status of H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, if this body were to take it up and pass that bill, would that bill go back to the Senate or would that bill now go directly to the President?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That measure is not currently pending, so the gentleman's inquiry is not appropriate at this time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, if the Democratic leader and the Republican leader were to give their consent, as you indicated, to bring that bill before this body and this body then adopted that bill, voted for it, would that bill then go to the President?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request does not relate to the measure that is before the House at this time. The Chair will not give an advisory opinion.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry with respect to the current bill before us, H.J. Res. 72.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, if this bill were to pass the House, would this bill go directly to the President, or would this bill go to the Senate, H.J. Res. 72?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All House-passed bills would be messaged to the Senate.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So this bill that we're currently discussing would go to the Senate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If it passes the House, yes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, is it the Chair's ruling that you cannot rule whether or not a resolution that's agreed to by the House and the Senate does not go to the President? Is that the Chair's parliamentary ruling, that you cannot give us an answer to that basic parliamentary question?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will only respond to inquiries that relate directly to the current proceedings.

Mr. RANGEL. The current proceeding, if I am not correct, involves a concurrent resolution. The whole world knows what is before this House. Is the Chair saying, from a parliamentary point of view, that we can't deal with the issue of an agreement between the House and the Senate? Is that the ruling?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending question relates to House Joint Resolution 72.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield back because I know my friend knows a better answer than that. We've been around a long time.

□ 1900

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), who is on the Defense Subcommittee of Appropriations.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House of Representatives as the daughter of a World War II veteran, a veteran who was disabled, a veteran who watched very carefully what his government, what this august body and the Senate and the President signed into law that would affect his benefits, our family's benefits.

And I rise today to oppose this new Republican scheme. Selecting random government agencies, programs, and museums to fund while the rest of the Federal Government languishes in a shutdown is simply irresponsible. The majority is making a desperate attempt to create distractions so that they're not held accountable for their actions. Congress needs to fund the entire Federal Government with a clean continuing resolution and end this reckless and unnecessary GOP—or, should I say, "Grand Old Party"—shutdown.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the only question before the House tonight is whether we will unite and fund the veterans who have served this Nation. That is the only question before us.

And at this time, it's my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO), a veteran of Vietnam and Iraq.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Today I was reminded just how our Nation is made up of the people, not the government.

Just a few hours ago, dozens of World War II veterans, in an act of civil disobedience, defied the President's closure of the World War II Memorial on the Washington Mall and celebrated their historic defense against tyranny so many decades ago.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this shutdown could be a learning experience for both everyone in this Chamber and the people of the country. It allows us to determine what is essential and what isn't, what government should do and what it shouldn't.

When I first arrived here in Washington, I wrote an op-ed in my local newspaper, laying out some obvious budgetary reforms. One of them was to make every department justify its spending on the floor of the House. The Department of Veterans Affairs could easily do that. Currently, the VA is not shut down completely. But the time is soon coming where our former service-members will not be able to receive the benefits they earned fighting to defend our freedom.

Because of the Democratic Senate's inability to compromise, services to

our veterans will be impacted if we don't do the right thing. In the military, we don't leave people behind on the battlefield. We shouldn't do that at home either. Surely my friends on the other side of the aisle do not believe that the Democratic Senate should hold our veterans hostage as we negotiate the CR. The people helped by the VA are American heroes. Let's not leave them behind.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. At this time, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the ranking member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Georgia.

If you want to help our veterans tonight, we should take up the Senate-passed clean CR bill which keeps the government open for our veterans and funds programs that help their children and grandchildren, like education, like scientific research at the National Institutes of Health. And as we heard from the Speaker, if we take that bill up and pass it, it will be on the President's desk tonight, and he can sign it, whereas this bill just goes back to the Senate.

So why aren't we doing that? Well, it was reported in The Washington Post, since the Republicans want to shut down the government, now they're going for the Cruz idea for plan B. "House GOP will go with Cruz's idea for plan B." That's Senator CRUZ. So again, Senator CRUZ is calling the shots here in the House of Representatives.

But here's what's particularly strange and cynical: our veterans are being used as props here. I don't think the American people understand that if we were to pass the CR tonight for veterans, it is actually a higher level of funding for the veterans by billions of dollars than what is in your bill before us today. So how can you say you want to help veterans by sending the Senate a bill with less money for veterans instead of sending immediately the President a bill with billions of dollars for veterans?

This cuts the amount that this House voted for for veterans in June. It cuts billions of dollars. Every Member of this House who voted in June on that Veterans appropriations bill who votes on this is voting for a cut from what this House provided for veterans earlier this year, and it represents a cut compared to the continuing resolution that we could send tonight to the President's desk and have him sign.

So, yes. If you really want to help veterans, Mr. Speaker, you should take up the Senate bill. Send it to the President. It will be done tonight at a level billions of dollars higher than this Republican bill.

Let's help our veterans, and let's help tonight.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman from Houston.

Mr. Speaker, last night we voted to go to conference with the other body. Our friends on the minority side opposed that. And the leadership in the other body refused to appoint conferees.

This afternoon we brought three bills to the floor on the suspension calendar to open our national parks, to give the District of Columbia the local funds that it rightly deserves, and to fund our veterans. These bills are under suspension, which means they need to come to the floor and get a two-thirds vote. We can't pass these bills if my friends on the minority side don't vote for them.

And I would point out, on the District of Columbia, the last time the voters of the District of Columbia voted for a Republican for President, his name was Abraham Lincoln in 1864. We need to pass these bills. We're just trying to help.

I would point out that being in the minority party does not mean you have to be automatically the opposition party. Let's do what makes sense, what's the right thing to do. Vote for the veterans bill, and vote for the other two bills on suspension. We cannot pass them if our friends on the minority side, some of them don't vote for these bills.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, if I could inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. At this time, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGOS).

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan told a story many years ago about a little boy who encountered a pile of manure and was very excited because he thought there might be a pony in there somewhere. And the truth is that a lot of people across the country are looking for a pony.

So many people understand across the board that this isn't really about veterans or parks or the Washington, D.C., budget. It's a fight over ObamaCare and whether ObamaCare gets funded or not, a subject that has had some 40-something votes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

And I will also tell you that today, I've spent my day talking to people on the phone. I spoke to a veteran employed with the Federal Government in San Antonio who is a single dad and is worried about how he will pay his bills. A retired sergeant in Fort Stockton with the same story. Two people who were very interesting, one who told me straight up that he was a Tea Party member in San Antonio, Texas. He said, If you have a fight about ObamaCare, that should be separate and apart from keeping the doors of government open. And a woman in

Ozona, Texas, who told me the same thing.

But perhaps the best statement that I have had came from an airman who serves in the 23rd District who wrote me this:

While I and many others appreciate the gratitude expressed in times like these, we have also become weary of the same. Whenever the actions of our national leaders have a negative impact on us, as government employees—which seems to have become the norm over the last years—we hear the same rhetoric. We don't want to hear how grateful and appreciative our leaders are. We want them to show their gratitude through deeds. Passing a fiscally sound budget.

Mr. CULBERSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. At this time, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), a strong advocate for veterans.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of America, don't be fooled. Don't be fooled by what the Republicans are doing tonight.

Just 19 hours ago, they closed down this government. They closed down the government on the veterans. They closed down the government on D.C. They closed down the government on those who serve our parks. Many of them, when they left here 19 hours ago, were high-fiving and celebrating. We closed 'er down. We closed 'er down. And now they're here. They're here today with this hypocritical and deceitful act that now they want to do something for the veterans.

And to use these veterans—ladies and gentlemen, this is nothing but a fig leaf, a fig leaf to hide the shame of what this Republican Party did last night. And to use the veterans and to send—we are talking about just a period of just 10 or 12 weeks—to be able to send them \$5.2 million and think you've done something? We have 21 veterans committing suicide every day. Where are you talking about that? Four in my district alone.

We need to treat our veterans with the respect that they deserve by making sure that we pass that full budget. Bring a clean CR. Lift up the American people, and treat them all with respect. Don't pick one or the other.

Let's vote down this fig leaf of shame that the Republican Party is presenting here today in this resolution.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time we have remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. At this time, I am delighted to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California, Ms. NANCY PELOSI, the Democratic leader who is a strong advocate for veterans and a strong advocate for this government.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his great

service to our country and for his leadership on behalf of our veterans. They are precious to us. They make us the home of the brave and the land of the free. We couldn't be who we are, as a Nation, without the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families.

Mr. Ranking Member, I thank you for your participation in our meetings that we have on a regular basis with the Veterans Service Organizations, where so many of them come and give us their priorities of how we can help them. Whether it was the veterans' budget, the forward funding, or a long list of concurrent receipts, there are so many issues that we talk about there. And now, of course, the backlog and the rest.

And in those meetings, almost every time we meet, either at the beginning or the end, we always practically in a prayerful way quote what we say about our soldiers. The military says, On the battlefield, we leave no soldier behind. And we say, And when they come home, we leave no veteran behind.

□ 1915

The gentleman has said that we have one purpose here today, and that is to unite and support our veterans.

Do we support our veterans when we leave their families behind?

Our veterans are willing to go to battle to fight for our country, for our values, for our families, for their well-being, for our freedoms. And those people are not just veterans. They're fathers, they're mothers, they're grandparents, they're aunts and uncles. They're members of families. They want the best for their children and their grandchildren.

It may surprise you: sadly, some of them receive food stamps. Some of them receive Meals on Wheels. All of them, again, want a better future for our country.

So we're not uniting to support our veterans when we do what we're doing here today, because they would want us to support what they were fighting to defend, the ability of our country to be great. And that greatness springs from the health and well-being of the American people, in addition to our military might.

That's how we would define our strength; and I think, from listening to them, they would too.

I listened with interest to how people identified with their families. Four of my brothers were in the Army. My uncle died at the Battle of the Bulge, and that has always been part of the great pride of our family, that great war of World War II, that my father's brother was killed there.

So this World War II Memorial means a lot to all of us. Even if we didn't know anyone, even if we didn't have someone in the family, it's really important to us. And so we have to think of the ramifications of our actions.

When we shut down government, we can't say, oh, we're not respecting our

veterans because they can't go to the World War II Memorial. That's what shutting down government is, shutting down much of what they fought for, shutting down the tributes that we pay to them.

So let's not leave our veterans behind by leaving their children, their grandchildren, their families and what they need.

Just to go into it, this bill is billions of dollars less than what over 420 Members of this House passed in June.

We're all there for our veterans. There is no question about that, as our distinguished whip, Mr. HOYER, said. There is no question. Nobody questions the commitment that we all have, the gratitude that we have, the appreciation, the pedestal that we have our veterans on.

But we leave them behind when we leave behind all that they fought for, and we leave them behind when we put a bill on the floor that's billions of dollars less than we all came together to support just a few months ago.

Don't exploit them. Don't use them. We owe them too much.

On the battlefield, we leave no soldier behind; and when they come home, we leave no veteran behind, and all that they know and love.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we live in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We enjoy freedoms that they enjoy no place else like in America, but freedom is not free. The freedoms we enjoy were bought with a price, and that was the price of the men and women who sacrificed.

I am very, very saddened tonight that our colleagues would use and would hide behind the garment of sacrifice of those veterans and put forth a CR that does not fund, as the Senate CR does, the discretionary budget fully, the mandatory budget fully. But theirs, this CR, will not.

I urge the defeat of it, and let's not allow them to hide behind the sacrifice of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it's my privilege to yield our remaining 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), a distinguished Army Ranger who served this Nation both in Iraq and Afghanistan, to close.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, no country that forgets its veterans can long endure, and that's why America has always celebrated and cherished our veterans' service.

George Washington, in his first days as President, demanded, in one of the most forceful requests he made to the Congress, that they honor our veterans.

Abraham Lincoln, who presided over our bloodiest war, dedicated two of his most beautiful speeches, the Gettysburg Address, and his second inaugural, in part or in full, to honoring our veterans.

This is something that has long united our parties on both sides of the

aisle. The Democratic Party has many distinguished veterans, as does our party. That is why, today, we should continue this commitment.

We should ensure that the veterans who have been calling my office, who have been calling your offices, who've been calling all of our offices, don't have to face the kind of uncertainty and confusion that they do now because they aren't sure about what the Veterans Affairs Department can do for them.

We have our differences about ObamaCare, about funding levels, about many other matters. But let us, for our veterans, come together, as Abraham Lincoln said, and appeal to the better angels of our nature.

Uphold our veterans. Support and honor their service.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the drama that has played out on the floor of the House would make for a great movie. I must remind my colleagues that we aren't in Hollywood, and their dangerous and thoughtless actions aren't without consequences.

We are elected representatives of the United States of America. We are not actors. We are here to legislate. So I ask my Republican colleagues to stop pontificating to the cameras and get to the work of reopening the federal government.

The Democratic Leader came to the Floor yesterday and pleaded with the majority to bring the Senate's amended CR to the Floor for a vote. Last night as midnight drew closer, my colleague from New Jersey Mr. ANDREWS asked the Chairman of the Rules Committee to do what is right and fair and bring the Senate's amended CR to the Floor for a vote. The Rules' Committee Chairman refused to acknowledge Mr. ANDREWS' plea.

Shame on House Republicans for not giving members an opportunity to cast an up or down vote on the Senate's clean CR. Their refusal to move beyond Obamacare—a law that was upheld by the United States Supreme Court as Constitutional—and continue their insistence on dismantling the law—is absolutely astounding.

Because for every time we vote on a bill to delay, defund, or dismantle Obamacare knowing what the ultimate outcome will be, is time that we could spend working on behalf of the American people to advance important policies. Instead my Republican colleagues insist on holding the American people hostage.

This is a sad day for America. This is a sad day for America because of House Republicans' complete inability to lead. This dysfunction has been allowed to continue for too long.

I remind my colleagues that House Democrats are willing to accept a clean CR at the levels that Republicans demanded. It's not what we want, but we compromised in an effort to do the business of the American people.

Now we are asking you to compromise. Your refusal to do so has shut down the most powerful government in the world. And for what? Political theater.

Republicans are harming the American people and they deserve better.

Colleagues, vote no on these senseless resolutions and demand—demand a vote on the Senate's clean Continuing Resolution.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Continuing Resolutions to reopen our National Parks. Today, 368 national park sites were closed and we now see that the majority has noticed.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is graced with 20 Federal Parks that include Big Bend National Park, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Amistad National Recreation Area, Big Thicket National Preserve, Chamizal National Memorial, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Padre Island National Seashore, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park are all closed during the shutdown.

Texas also has national Forests and grasslands: Angelina National Forest; Davy Crockett National Forest; Sabine National Forest; Sam Houston National Forest; Caddo and Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) National Grasslands; Black Kettle and McClellan Creek Grasslands; Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands.

All of them are closed today because of the reckless behavior of the majority in the House of Representatives.

Perhaps this is the day that members of the majority of the House of Representatives received their first education directly from constituents about our nation's national parks and how much our parks are loved and appreciated.

Federal parks also contribute to the local economies where they are found and create tens of thousands of tourist related jobs. Because they are closed today those jobs are at risk as well as the incomes of the Park Rangers who are stewards of our nation's most precious treasures.

The House should take up the clean Senate Continuing Resolution to fund the entire government.

If we only fund what the House majority wants then they will have no need to worry about funding the parts of the government that they do not like, which includes the Departments of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, negotiations are a part of life. We negotiate agreements everyday—with our spouses, children, and friends. We negotiate for commercial exchanges, and for most people they negotiate over matters related to work.

From what we have learned from the majority is if they get what they want then they will leave everyone else behind. They do not see the nation at large, but as a small place with small minded people.

They are wrong. The United States is a very large place with great minded people with big hearts, who do not believe in leaving others behind.

We have seen the majority's attacks against the poor in the form of legislation that would undermine programs to feed the poor—the most recent was a bill to cut \$40 billion from the nation's food safety net programs under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs.

SNAP benefits the working poor which include those who earn 130% of the federal

poverty guideline, but the majority of households have income well below the maximum: 83% of SNAP households have gross income at or below 100% of the poverty guideline this translates into incomes of \$19,530 for a family of 3 in 2013. These households receive about 91% of all benefits.

These are the people who we know the majority will leave behind if we allow a piece meal approach to managing the CR process.

The clean CR passed by the Senate ensures that all the employees of the federal government are paid and that important things like our parks are open and our children are feed.

Mr. Speaker, instead of exempting certain groups and persons from the harm caused by a government shutdown, we should instead be focused on reopening the government as soon as possible.

Texas will soon begin experiencing the impact of cutbacks in the \$64.7 billion in federal spending that it receives annually, including the loss of:

\$518 million in federal highway funds;

\$411 million for interstate highway maintenance;

\$130 million in home energy assistance for the poor;

\$71 million, in Homeland Security grants;

\$55 million in coordinated border infrastructure and \$97 million in federal doption assistance;

For these reasons, we cannot wait for the majority to discover all of the reasons why we have a federal government or the importance and purpose of each agency.

We have to pass a clean CR as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 72.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass House Joint Resolution 72 will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motions to suspend the rules and pass House Joint Resolution 71 and House Joint Resolution 70.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 264, nays 164, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 506]

YEAS—264

Aderholt	Bishop (UT)	Calvert
Amash	Black	Camp
Amodei	Blackburn	Campbell
Bachmann	Boehner	Cantor
Bachus	Boustany	Capito
Barber	Brady (TX)	Carson (IN)
Barletta	Braley (IA)	Carter
Barr	Bridenstine	Cassidy
Barrow (GA)	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Barton	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Benishek	Brown (GA)	Coble
Bentivolio	Buchanan	Coffman
Bera (CA)	Bucshon	Cole
Bilirakis	Burgess	Collins (GA)
Bishop (NY)	Bustos	Collins (NY)

Conaway	Keating	Renacci	Huffman	Meng	Scott (VA)
Cook	Kelly (PA)	Ribble	Israel	Michaud	Scott, David
Cooper	Kilmer	Rice (SC)	Jackson Lee	Miller, George	Serrano
Cotton	King (IA)	Rigell	Jeffries	Moore	Sewell (AL)
Cramer	King (NY)	Roby	Johnson (GA)	Moran	Shea-Porter
Crawford	Kingston	Roe (TN)	Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Sherman
Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (AL)	Kaptur	Napolitano	Sires
Culberson	Kline	Rogers (KY)	Kelly (IL)	Neal	Slaughter
Daines	Labrador	Rogers (MI)	Kennedy	Negrete McLeod	Smith (WA)
Davis, Rodney	LaMalfa	Rohrabacher	Kildee	Nolan	Speier
DeBene	Lamborn	Rokita	Kind	O'Rourke	Swalwell (CA)
Denham	Lance	Rooney	Kirkpatrick	Pallone	Takano
Dent	Lankford	Ros-Lehtinen	Kuster	Pascarell	Thompson (CA)
DeSantis	Latham	Roskam	Langevin	Pastor (AZ)	Thompson (MS)
DesJarlais	Latta	Ross	Larsen (WA)	Payne	Titus
Diaz-Balart	Lipinski	Rothfus	Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Tonko
Duffy	LoBiondo	Royce	Lee (CA)	Perlmutter	Tsongas
Duncan (SC)	Loebach	Ruiz	Levin	Pingree (ME)	Vaiz
Duncan (TN)	Long	Runyan	Lewis	Pocan	Van Hollen
Ellmers	Lucas	Ryan (WI)	Lofgren	Price (NC)	Vargas
Farenthold	Luetkemeyer	Salmon	Lowenthal	Quigley	Veasey
Fincher	Lummis	Sanford	Lowe	Rahall	Vela
Fitzpatrick	Lynch	Scalise	Lujan Grisham	Rangel	Velázquez
Fleischmann	Maffei	Schneider	(NM)	Richmond	Visclosky
Fleming	Maloney, Sean	Schock	Luján, Ben Ray	Roybal-Allard	Walz
Flores	Marchant	Schrader	(NM)	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Forbes	Marino	Schweikert	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)	Schultz
Fortenberry	Massie	Scott, Austin	Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda	T. Waters
Foster	Matheson	Sensenbrenner	Matsui	T.	Watt
Fox	McCarthy (CA)	Sessions	McCollum	Sanchez, Loretta	Waxman
Franks (AZ)	McCaul	Shimkus	McDermott	Sarbanes	Welch
Frelinghuysen	McClintock	Shuster	McGovern	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	McHenry	Simpson	McNerney	Schiff	Yarmuth
Garcia	McIntyre	Sinema	Meeks	Schwartz	
Gardner	McKeon	Smith (MO)			
Garrett	McKinley	Smith (NE)			
Gerlach	McMorris	Smith (NJ)			
Gibbs	Rodgers	Smith (TX)			
Gibson	Meadows	Southerland			
Gingrey (GA)	Meehan	Stewart			
Gohmert	Messer	Stivers			
Goodlatte	Mica	Stockman			
Gosar	Miller (FL)	Stutzman			
Gowdy	Miller (MI)	Terry			
Granger	Miller, Gary	Thompson (PA)			
Graves (GA)	Mullin	Thornberry			
Graves (MO)	Mulvaney	Tiberi			
Griffin (AR)	Murphy (FL)	Tierney			
Griffith (VA)	Murphy (PA)	Tipton			
Grimm	Neugebauer	Turner			
Guthrie	Noem	Upton			
Hall	Nugent	Valadao			
Hanna	Nunes	Wagner			
Harper	Nunnelee	Walberg			
Harris	Owens	Walder			
Hartzler	Palazzo	Walorski			
Hastings (WA)	Paulsen	Weber (TX)			
Heck (NV)	Pearce	Webster (FL)			
Heck (WA)	Perry	Wenstrup			
Hensarling	Peters (CA)	Westmoreland			
Holding	Peters (MI)	Whitfield			
Hudson	Peterson	Williams			
Huelskamp	Petri	Wilson (SC)			
Huizenga (MI)	Pittenger	Wittman			
Hultgren	Pitts	Wolf			
Hunter	Poe (TX)	Womack			
Hurt	Polis	Woodall			
Issa	Pompeo	Yoder			
Jenkins	Posey	Yoho			
Johnson (OH)	Price (GA)	Young (AK)			
Johnson, Sam	Radel	Young (FL)			
Jones	Reed	Young (IN)			
Jordan	Reichert				
Joyce					

NAYS—164

Andrews	Clyburn	Enyart
Bass	Cohen	Eshoo
Beatty	Connolly	Esty
Becerra	Conyers	Farr
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Fattah
Blumenauer	Courtney	Frankel (FL)
Bonamici	Crowley	Fudge
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Gabbard
Brown (FL)	Cummings	Garamendi
Brownley (CA)	Davis (CA)	Grayson
Butterfield	Davis, Danny	Green, Al
Capps	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Capuano	DeGette	Grijalva
Cardenas	Delaney	Gutiérrez
Carney	DeLauro	Hahn
Cartwright	Deutsch	Hanabusa
Castor (FL)	Dingell	Hastings (FL)
Castro (TX)	Dogett	Higgins
Chu	Doyles	Himes
Cicilline	Duckworth	Holt
Clarke	Edwards	Honda
Clay	Ellison	Horsford
Cleaver	Engel	Hoyer

Herrera Beutler	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (VA)
Hinojosa	Rush	Scott, David
		Serrano
		Sewell (AL)
		Shea-Porter
		Sherman
		Sires
		Slaughter
		Smith (WA)
		Speier
		Swalwell (CA)
		Takano
		Thompson (CA)
		Thompson (MS)
		Titus
		Tonko
		Tsongas
		Vaiz
		Van Hollen
		Vargas
		Veasey
		Vela
		Velázquez
		Visclosky
		Walz
		Wasserman
		Schultz
		T. Waters
		Watt
		Waxman
		Welch
		Wilson (FL)
		Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—4

McCarthy (NY)
Rush

□ 1944

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana and MAFFEI changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 71) making continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2014, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 265, nays 163, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 507]

YEAS—265

Aderholt	Blackburn	Campbell
Amash	Boehner	Cantor
Amodei	Boustany	Capito
Bachmann	Brady (TX)	Carson (IN)
Bachus	Braley (IA)	Carter
Barber	Bridenstine	Cassidy
Barletta	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Barr	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Barton	Broun (GA)	Clarke
Benishek	Buchanan	Clay
Bentivolio	Bucshon	Cleaver
Bera (CA)	Burgess	Coble
Bilirakis	Bustos	Coffman
Bishop (UT)	Calvert	Cole
Black	Camp	Collins (GA)

Collins (NY) Johnson, Sam
 Conaway Jones
 Connolly Jordan
 Cook Joyce
 Cotton Kelly (PA)
 Cramer King (IA)
 Crawford King (NY)
 Crenshaw Kingston
 Culberson Kinzinger (IL)
 Daines Kline
 Davis, Rodney Labrador
 Denham LaMalfa
 Dent Lamborn
 DeSantis Lance
 DesJarlais Lankford
 Diaz-Balart Latham
 Duffy Latta
 Duncan (SC) Lipinski
 Duncan (TN) LoBiondo
 Edwards Long
 Ellmers Lucas
 Farenthold Luetkemeyer
 Fincher Lummis
 Fitzpatrick Lynch
 Fleischmann Marchant
 Fleming Marino
 Flores Massie
 Forbes Matheson
 Fortenberry McCarthy (CA)
 Foster McCaul
 Foss McClintock
 Franks (AZ) McHenry
 Frelinghuysen McIntyre
 Fudge McKeon
 Gallego McKinley
 Garcia McMorris
 Gardner Rodgers
 Garrett Meadows
 Gerlach Meehan
 Gibbs Meeks
 Gibson Messer
 Gingrey (GA) Mica
 Gohmert Miller (FL)
 Goodlatte Miller (MI)
 Gosar Miller, Gary
 Gowdy Moran
 Granger Mullin
 Graves (GA) Mulvaney
 Graves (MO) Murphy (FL)
 Griffin (AR) Murphy (PA)
 Griffith (VA) Neugebauer
 Grimm Noem
 Guthrie Nugent
 Hall Nunes
 Hanna Nunnelee
 Harper Olson
 Harris Palazzo
 Hartzler Paulsen
 Hastings (FL) Pearce
 Hastings (WA) Perry
 Heck (NV) Peters (CA)
 Hensarling Petri
 Holding Pittenger
 Hudson Pitts
 Huelskamp Poe (TX)
 Huizenga (MI) Polis
 Hultgren Pompeo
 Hunter Posey
 Hurt Price (GA)
 Issa Radel
 Jackson Lee Reed
 Jeffries Reichert
 Jenkins Renacci
 Johnson (OH)

NAYS—163

Andrews Cohen
 Barrow (GA) Conyers
 Bass Cooper
 Beatty Costa
 Becerra Courtney
 Bishop (GA) Crowley
 Bishop (NY) Cuellar
 Blumenauer Cummings
 Bonamici Davis (CA)
 Brady (PA) Davis, Danny
 Brown (FL) DeFazio
 Brownley (CA) DeGette
 Butterfield Delaney
 Capps DeLauro
 Capuano DelBene
 Cárdenas Deutch
 Carney Dingell
 Cartwright Doggett
 Castor (FL) Doyle
 Castro (TX) Duckworth
 Chu Ellison
 Cicilline Engel
 Clyburn Enyart

Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southernland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Watt
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)
 Young (IN)

Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Frankel (FL)
 Gabbard
 Garamendi
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hanabusa
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel

Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis
 Loebach
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Lujan, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Maffei
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNerney
 Meng
 Michaud
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Nolan
 O'Rourke
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruppersberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schwartz
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—4

Herrera Beutler
 Hinojosa
 McCarthy (NY)
 Rush

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1954

Messrs. MEEKS and BROOKS of Alabama changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OPERATIONS, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, AND UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 252, nays 176, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 508]

YEAS—252

Aderholt
 Amash
 Amodei
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barber

Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bentivolio
 Bera (CA)
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boehner
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Bustos
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carson (IN)
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Coble
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cotton
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 DelBene
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Foss
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallego
 Garcia
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)

Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Grimm
 Guthrie
 Hall
 Hanna
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 Kilmer
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Lankford
 Latham
 Latta
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loebach
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Maloney, Sean
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnelee
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Peters (CA)

NAYS—176

Andrews
 Barrow (GA)
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clarke
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 Deutch

Dingell	Larson (CT)	Richmond
Doggett	Lee (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Doyle	Levin	Ruppersberger
Duckworth	Lewis	Ryan (OH)
Edwards	Lofgren	Sánchez, Linda
Ellison	Lowenthal	T.
Engel	Lowe	Sanchez, Loretta
Enyart	Lujan Grisham	Sarbanes
Eshoo	(NM)	Schakowsky
Esty	Luján, Ben Ray	Schiff
Farr	(NM)	Schrader
Fattah	Lynch	Schwartz
Frankel (FL)	Maffei	Scott (VA)
Fudge	Maloney,	Scott, David
Gabbard	Carolyn	Serrano
Garamendi	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Grayson	McCollum	Shea-Porter
Green, Al	McDermott	Sherman
Green, Gene	McGovern	Sires
Grijalva	McNerney	Slaughter
Gutiérrez	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Hahn	Meng	Speier
Hanabusa	Michaud	Swalwell (CA)
Hastings (FL)	Miller, George	Takano
Heck (WA)	Moore	Thompson (CA)
Higgins	Moran	Thompson (MS)
Himes	Nadler	Titus
Holt	Napolitano	Tonko
Honda	Neal	Tsongas
Horsford	Negrete McLeod	Van Hollen
Hoyer	Nolan	Vargas
Huffman	O'Rourke	Veasey
Israel	Owens	Vela
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Velázquez
Jeffries	Pascrell	Visclosky
Johnson (GA)	Pastor (AZ)	Walz
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Wasserman
Kaptur	Pelosi	Schultz
Keating	Perlmutter	Waters
Kelly (IL)	Peters (MI)	Watt
Kennedy	Peterson	Waxman
Kildee	Pingree (ME)	Welch
Kind	Pocan	Wilson (FL)
Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Kuster	Quigley	Young (AK)
Langevin	Rahall	
Larsen (WA)	Rangel	

NOT VOTING—

Herrera Beutler	McCarthy (NY)
Hinojosa	Rush

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2001

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COTTON). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagree to the amendment of the House to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2642) "An Act to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.", Senate insists upon its amendment and requests a

conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mrs. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HOEVEN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

HOUSE WILL CONTINUE AS BIPARTISAN LEADER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this is a first for me. This is a first for a lot of us.

Because of a partisan refusal even to talk with House Republicans about a plan to keep our government open and ensure fair treatment for all Americans under ObamaCare, the Federal Government is shut down.

Yes, the consequences of Presidential partisanship are real and are being felt throughout the country—in furloughed offices and in faulty health care exchanges.

Over the past 2 weeks, the House has offered four bipartisan proposals to fund government services fully and put ObamaCare uncertainty on hold.

Each effort was rebuffed. Each good-faith step we took to the middle was rejected—even the simplest request to sit down and work through our policy differences. Really.

Call us names, belittle our values, refuse to negotiate with us—fine. In this moment where leadership is required, be small.

But House Republicans still recognize that it is going to take bipartisanship to reopen government. We will continue to lead as the only body that has provided bipartisan solutions for the country.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this government, the government of the greatest Nation on Earth, will reopen only when the public decides that one party is being uncompromising and unreasonable.

The continuing resolution that the Senate sent us sets the spending level, and it sets the level right there at the Republican Ryan budget level—\$250 billion below the President's request, \$72 billion below the Senate Democratic budget. When it comes to spending levels, we have compromised. It is manifestly unreasonable to shut down the government to achieve a legislative objective.

Today, we are told that they will keep the government open for 45 or 60 days if only we allow them to dismantle ObamaCare. In December, they will say we will keep the government

open a little longer if only we will strip-mine Yellowstone.

What if Democrats took the same tactic? What if we said we are going to shut down government until we get immigration reform, campaign finance reform, or gun control? We are as dedicated to those issues as they are to their ceaseless quest to repeal ObamaCare. But we will not shut down the government, we will not destroy the economy, we will not take hostages, we will not hurt this country just to get our own way.

OBAMACARE

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, my State of Wyoming is projected to have the highest average premiums under ObamaCare of any State in the Nation that is subject to the Federal exchange; by far, the highest rate of any State in the Nation.

Is it any wonder that because my State has the smallest population in the Nation that I would fight for not one-size-fits-all, top-down, Big Government solutions, but State-based solutions, health care that is negotiated between the patient and the doctor.

Yet ObamaCare has taken place today; it has taken effect. It is the law of the land, and I will abide by it; but Congress should not have an illegal subsidy under ObamaCare. House Republicans want to get rid of the illegal subsidy for Congress under ObamaCare. That is what we demand.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, GOP irresponsibility that led to the government shutdown is already having an impact across our country. I spent part of my day down at the World War II Memorial here in Washington. As the author of the bill that created the memorial—and we worked for 16 years from point of introduction to point of dedication in 2004—I witnessed an irony that Senators and Representatives who voted for the shutdown showed up today to remove the fence that was placed around the site because honor flights were coming in here.

Around our country, veterans are still coming with those who sponsor them. I thought how ironic to see this, that they would have the gall to show up at a site that they voted to shutter last night.

Knowing that honor flights are coming in from Ohio next week, I wondered where we would be. For the first time since the memorial was dedicated in 2004, do you know what, it was absent people, absent the American people. Last Sunday, we saw how crowded it was as the largest honor flight came in from the east coast.

I just say to my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle: Did you really want to do this? Don't the American people deserve better than that, a vacant site, a fenced site?

It is time for our colleagues to wake up and not think about their party or themselves, but think about the American people.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, one would think after all of the hours and hours of discussions that have taken place on this floor that perhaps enough has been said. That may be true, but so much of what was said seems not to be clarifying and providing a clear understanding of what has actually happened here.

We want to take a few minutes here, probably maybe as much as an hour, possibly less than that, and try to gain some clarity as to how we got to this point with a government shutdown, how we can get out of it, and what the impact is on Americans. There are good days and there are bad days and then there are really, really bad days.

About 12:30 last night, as we were finishing the votes here on the floor, it became very apparent that the government had, indeed, shut down and that there wasn't any hope of resurrecting it in the final hours of last night. So today, all across America, government offices are shut down. You just heard a description of the World War II Memorial. And that is but an example.

Now, how did we get here? How did this happen? We have been over the last 3 years now dealing with one manufactured crisis after another. They came to be known as "cliffs": "fiscal cliff," "debt limit cliff," on and on. Each time we would come up to some deadline, and it was made into a crisis. Our Republican friends were usually the—well, they were always the instigators of this, at least since the 2010 election.

What has happened is they have used these deadlines, which come and go every year, as an opportunity to leverage in one or another policy changes. That has been going on. I think one of the most noteworthy of these deadlines was the fiscal cliff that occurred in the summer of 2011 in which the United States came up against its debt limit and it was just a moment away from that default.

□ 2015

Fortunately, there were negotiations underway, and it did lead to a settlement. The settlement, of course, was the infamous sequester. It wasn't supposed to happen. Nobody liked it. It was in the bill. It did happen, and now we are living with it. As time went on,

we have had even more of these moments of crisis, and yesterday was yet one more. It occurs on a regular basis. Every October 1, we start a new fiscal year, and that's an opportunity for us to look at all of the expenditures of the Federal Government and to make decisions about what should be or should not be funded and at what level it should be funded.

So we had a crisis last night, and the result is the Federal Government is largely unfunded, and monuments across the Nation—national parks, Veterans Administration offices, Social Security offices, and the rest—are in the process of being shut down, and some are shut down. This is not a good thing. It's a very bad thing. It is bad for this Nation. I was there in 1995 as Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior when the Department of the Interior was shut down—national parks, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey. Studies underway about the nature of everything from earthquakes to hurricanes and the like were just put aside for 26 days. We are back in that today. It could have been avoided—it should have been avoided—and had we followed through on the normal process of establishing a budget for the United States, it would have been, or most likely would have been, avoided.

Why didn't that happen?

The House of Representatives passed a budget in March. The Senate passed a budget at about the same time, and the Senate requested a conference committee. From April to this moment, no conference committee on the Budget has been established.

Now, the budget gives the framework in which the appropriations for all of the Federal offices—the Department of Defense, parks and so forth—are funded. It is within that framework of the budget. So, without a framework, we were literally wandering in the dark, and some very, very bad things happened. What happened was we came up against a deadline. The continuing resolution, which continues to fund the government—the first issue was for 2 months, until December 15, and then it eventually came down to November 15. That continuing resolution—sometimes called a "CR"—actually provided less money than did the Senate's version of the budget. It was \$986 billion, which is the sequestration amount that would continue forward.

While virtually every person in this entire House—435 of us—said sequestration was bad and that we will never vote for sequestration again, we were, in fact, presented with a sequestration appropriation, a continuing resolution, that would go for 2 months. The sequestration was, in fact, built into that. Now, the Democrats, in looking at this, said, We don't want a shutdown. We will compromise for 2 months and accept the lower funding level.

So, when people go back and forth here and say there was no effort to compromise, that's not true. The fact

of the matter is the Democrats said, to avoid the shutdown of government, we will accept the sequestration level of government, which was, I think, over \$50 billion less than what we would have liked to have spent to keep the programs going.

Along the way, our Republican colleagues decided that they would use this moment to terminate the Affordable Health Care Act. We are going to spend some time on that this evening. The termination of the Affordable Health Care Act would affect every American in many, many ways, and we will spend some time talking about all of those ways.

So, by combining the CR, which the Democrats accepted—and had it passed the House and the Senate, there would be no government shutdown—and by joining to that the desire, particularly of the Tea Party Republican caucus members, we wound up with a stalemate. We need to understand exactly what was in the CR and exactly what was the impact of the—what shall we say? There were three different versions of this. One version was to repeal, in other words, just wipe out the entire law—the Affordable Health Care Act, or ObamaCare. Another was to delay all of it. Then yet a third was to delay just a piece of it. So there have been different iterations, but each one would dramatically affect the people of America.

I would like to now turn to my colleague from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who will pick up with this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would clarify that the gentleman was recognized for half the time remaining before 10 p.m., or approximately 54 minutes.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Talk fast, SHEILA.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the distinguished gentleman from California for his leadership.

If I might inquire of the Speaker again, you said the time was—how much time? I'm sorry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time is 54 total minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Out of 60 minutes? Is that what you're saying?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Rather than 60 minutes, it is 54 total minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you so very much. I wanted to make sure it wasn't 5 minutes.

Let me thank the gentleman again from California. I want to thank him overall for a litany of causes and legislative efforts that I've joined him on—Make It In America and a number of others. I am so glad that he has come to the floor today to be able to recount for the American people just what we have gone through.

I want to start where he started because I've heard a number of my colleagues who are here on the floor—Congressman HONDA, Congresswoman KAPTUR—speak eloquently about their work on the Appropriations Committee

and of the wall—the mountain—that they had to climb with a compromise that many Democrats voted for and that the President signed, which was the sequestration that was created to avoid a shutdown some years ago. The numbers were so odious that it was thought that we would bring the Republicans to the table in a consensus group. I'd hoped the American people would recognize that they would be surprised to find out that those odious numbers were not even enough, that it didn't bring them to the table. In fact, what it did is cause them to hunker down—to want more cuts, more damage to the American people—which is where we find ourselves today.

Without the shutdown that we are in now, that sequestration, itself, which is what Democrats were trying to work toward to avoid this deepening impact, was going to lose a million jobs, but we could not seemingly bridge that gap of understanding with House Republicans and, particularly, with the right-wing component. Over the weekend, by the way, one Minnesota Member of Congress and former Presidential candidate indicated that she was smiling. They got just what they wanted.

So, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I am glad to be able to say these points just for a moment.

That was a moment of compromise—that was a moment of holding one's nose—because we were doing it for the good of the whole. It was for the greater good, for the good of the whole.

We come now to another moment of crisis. Someone asked me: What is the plan? The answer is right before us, and that is a clean CR. Let me explain.

It is not a clean CR to take us into 2014 and 2015. My friends, it is only until November 15 so we can have cooler heads, and we can reconcile with Senate Majority Leader REID—who was offered this compromise, this peace offering—and with the President and sit down even before Thanksgiving and get a budget for all of the running of the government and an appropriations process to allow that to happen.

Now let me quickly go to the three bills that we had and just say these things.

National parks. I want to say directly to the Bellaire teacher—and her name is Ann Linsley-Kennedy—that we are going to work as hard as we can to get those parks open, and I will tell you the answer. The answer is for the Republican House to vote on a clean CR, and you will be able to go to the park with the Bellaire students.

I am going to be calling you tonight, Ms. Linsley-Kennedy, to let you know how hard Democrats are working to encourage our Republicans to just vote on that clean CR, and your youngsters will be able to be headed to Yellowstone on October 4.

The other point is that I want to tell Patrick Smith, a disabled veteran who called my office: thank you for your service. The reason I voted down and joined my colleagues against this

piecemeal veterans' bill, Patrick, is that the numbers were so insulting to your willingness to pay the ultimate on the battlefield. It was \$6 billion less. It wasn't going to help reduce the claims or get your benefits. Those benefits are going to be running now for a couple of weeks, but I will tell you, Patrick, on the floor of the House: I promise you that we will not have this ridiculous treatment of our veterans, but we are going to do something that is meaningful, not what was done on the floor of the House today.

Finally, let me say to my colleague Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON—again, using the plight of the people of the District of Columbia—that you are deserving of the respect of using your own \$8 billion, and the Republicans know full well that all they have to do is to vote for a clean CR to be able to ensure that this independent area—the Capital of the United States, whose Member does not have a vote—is able to do this.

Congressman, today is October 1. Again, I want to wish my brother, Michael Jackson, a birthday wish.

I hope you had a great day, but you had an historic day. October 1 is "get covered." That means that, with all of the noise about ObamaCare—about the bill—it is the law.

I want to announce on the floor today that we are told that millions of people have gotten on this Web site—hear my words: HealthCare.gov—2 million or so in New York, California and all throughout the Nation. When I went to my office in the early morning hours of last evening or what was yesterday—at 1 or 2 in the morning—we turned on HealthCare.gov, and I want you to know that the system said it was overwhelmed, not because of inadequacy but because people were pressing to be able to have good health care. They needed it. These are people with issues and preexisting conditions—people who are suffering from sickle cell and people with diabetes and others. They were saying, thank God. There is one less spina bifida. One woman was 18 years old, and her family was told, You are off of the insurance. God knows she is going to be able to be covered.

So I want to thank you for doing that.

I am closing on a number of 3,000. These are 3,000 children in Houston who are on the waiting list for Head Start because of sequester and the government shutdown. I end on that note because we have talked about the disabled and disease, and we have talked about the District of Columbia and about going to a park, but who cares about the children—3,000? How many are across the Nation who can't get Head Start or who can't get food stamps because this body decided to vote \$40 billion out?

I look forward to continuing this discussion, but more importantly, I want to thank you for recognizing that the way to the golden arch is through decency and compromise and sensible

reconciliation. Vote on a clean CR, and we will get to the next step, which is to work to make sure this government stays open and that the American people are our first priority.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, thank you so very much.

There is no doubt that this House has the ability at any moment to vote on the continuing resolution that the Senate has sent back here. If that were to happen, the President would immediately have that law on his desk. He could sign it, and government would at that moment reopen. Keep in mind that that CR was not one that we thought was the best. It, actually, is significantly below the level of funding that the Democrats wanted, and it does continue, at least for another month and a half, the sequestration, which we do not like.

I would like now to turn to Ms. MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio, who spoke here on the floor a few moments ago.

Ms. KAPTUR, please share with us your thoughts on the current crisis in America.

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to thank Congressman GARAMENDI for bringing us all together this evening, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, Congressman HONDA—those who are here and are serious about trying to rectify what happened last night with the GOP shutdown of our departments of the Federal Government. How very irresponsible, how reckless, how it puts our economy at risk to put politics ahead of the national interests, and so, so unnecessary.

□ 2030

I stand here this evening as a member of the Appropriations Committee, the committee and the Constitution that is responsible for operating and providing the funding for the Departments of our government: the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education. You can go across the Departments. As of the end of September, we're supposed to have the budgets passed for each of those Departments for fiscal year 2014. That officially began last night at midnight. At the moment, those 12 bills have not been passed. The Republicans are holding them hostage for their efforts to try to contort the legislative process to change the law, to change the Affordable Care Act because they don't like parts of it.

Actually, that is a tangential issue. It has nothing to do with whether or not the Department of Transportation will have the funding to sign contracts to get roads paved across this country, to repair bridges that are in disrepair across the Nation, or to make sure that we have air controllers across this Nation on a regular basis and not just on an emergency basis.

It has nothing to do with whether in Ohio, for example, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the full complement of staff, both military and civilian, can

report for work at the 180th Fighter Wing F-16 unit in Lucas County, Ohio; whether the technicians who repair those planes, who were furloughed, over 200 of them, who are, in my view, essential—because you can't fly the plane if the thing doesn't work, right?—but they were let go for the moment and classified as not having to report for work.

This is such a mishmash across the government of the United States and so utterly irresponsible to try to hold every single Department hostage to the GOP's particular view of a bill that they don't like that has nothing to do with the operation of these other Departments.

I stand here tonight to say that they put at risk the entire economic recovery of the country, furloughing over 800,000 people across the Government of the United States, parks—some folks have talked about parks. It's way beyond parks. We talked about the World War II Memorial here and the first time I've ever seen it without anyone on site because it's all cordoned off. It was as though a neutron bomb had hit the site. There were no citizens that could access the site. The fountains were turned off, the Visitor Center, the facilities that are there for people to use were all shuttered. To what end?

The normal constitutional appropriations process works in a way that we pass our bills in the House and in the Senate; and then we meet, the House and the Senate, the Senators and the Representatives together, we work out our differences; we send the bills to the President by the end of September; and the government operates for another year.

The GOP in the House has been very unwilling to follow the rules, very irresponsible. They've now placed the whole country in jeopardy because they can't reach agreement with us. How sad for the Nation and how unnecessary; how reckless to do this to the economy. And we know that when contracts aren't let—and contractors are calling all of our offices wanting to know when those contracts will be signed. Whether it's for unmanned aerial vehicles that we have to develop in this country or whether it's fixing combines or overflows that are a serious challenge in the Midwest and other places, the government simply can't conduct its business. Generals and departmental administrators are spending more time thinking about who's going to be furloughed tomorrow than getting the job done. So it throws a wrench into the gears of a great society, of a great country, the oldest Republic on the face of the Earth.

I thank the gentleman for calling this Special Order this evening to say to the American people that we share their frustration. We are their representatives. We want the Government of the United States to work. To try to use the process that they've used to gerrymander in States like Ohio to suppress the will of the majority of the

people by holding the Affordable Care Act out there and every Department hostage, they're contorting the government and its ability to operate in the same way that they contorted the gerrymandering of this country when, in fact, there were 1,500,000 more votes cast for Democratic Members who ran for Congress than Republican. In States like Ohio that vote 50/50, we only have four Democratic Representatives out of 16. There are 12 Republicans, 4 Democrats because of gerrymandering. The very same contortion that they did to the politics of the country in the drawing of those lines, they're now using that same weapon inside this House to try to contort the legislative process that has resulted in shutdown.

I thank Congressman GARAMENDI for bringing us together this evening, for trying to inject some reason, some responsibility and prudent behavior into the way that this government operates. We share your passion for that end.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you very much, Ms. KAPTUR. We should have pointed out in the introduction that you are the ranking member of one of the Appropriation Committees—transportation, the energy programs, all of the research that goes on, and a lot of the projects of, I believe, NASA, also. I know you worked long and hard on that, and I sense a sadness, from your remarks, that all of the good things that are done by those Departments are simply in abeyance now; and given the level of funding that is in the CR with the sequestration, much will not be done.

Let me now turn to my colleague from California (Mr. HONDA), who has been serving for a while here representing the Silicon Valley and much of what we were just talking about, the research and the development of the economy. I know you've had a great deal to do with that over the years, really helping to create one of the engines of economic growth in the United States, Mr. HONDA.

Mr. HONDA. Thank you, my friend. I want to add my thanks to you for convening this group and being joined by my good friends from Texas, the gentleman from San Antonio and the gentlelady from Houston.

The comments I want to make to the Speaker are two things. One, I want to share with the people of this country some information that maybe many people don't know about who you are, my friend. We have something in common. We spent 2 years in Peace Corps—you in Ethiopia and I in El Salvador. From those experiences, we understand the kinds of impact that we could have as individuals from this country. Through the program of Peace Corps that President Kennedy had put together, we've been able to accrue a lifelong journey and experience that allows us to reflect rather deeply and profoundly the impacts that government can have, both positive and negative.

I do know, from my observation of your history in California, that being the first commissioner of insurance in the State of California was significant. That experience has to have some import and some insights into what's going on today in terms of the Affordable Care Act and President Obama's efforts in trying to make sure that this country allows each and every person coverage as individuals in this country and the benefit that it brings about.

The fact that you were the first commissioner of insurance also allowed you the interesting insight of the impact of the health insurance companies and how they manage to impact the cost of health care. I think being the commissioner of insurance in California also has to give you a sense of pride when October 1 is the day that we had kicked off the State exchange to cover California. That has to give you a sense of accomplishment, but also a sense of dismay that there are folks here who would use the political process to deny people the coverage that they need in order to have a good health program.

I just wanted to share those thoughts not only with you, but with the folks who are viewing us in this country so that they know that we're standing here not because we want to take up time and space, but we want to utilize the experience that we have accrued over time for the benefit of this country. That was the third mandate of Peace Corps, to come home and utilize all that we understand and invest it in this country. I just wanted to share that with you and with the rest of this country.

Now, all day the beltway discussion has been centered on who has the leverage and who is paying the political cost of a government shutdown. What about the human costs, and what about our workers and their families? What about our economy? They cannot afford this. Today there are over 800,000 people that should be working that aren't, and there are people all over this country that rely on the work that these people do.

As long as the majority wages this ideological war, the National Institutes of Health will not be able to accept new patients for lifesaving research. Our veterans will have to go without their disability and pension checks. American families will have their home loans stalled. Family businesses won't have access to the capital they need to grow, and pregnant women and young children will be prevented from receiving critical nutrition support.

I urge my Republican colleagues to think about the families in their districts that don't have a vote on this floor. They expect much more from us and deserve a better outcome. Let's remember that at this very moment, the common denominator is that there is enough agreement in this body on a funding level to end this shutdown right now. Let's do that. Let's bring up the Senate continuing resolution, a

clean one. Let's put people back to work and do what we were sent here to do: keep government working for the American people and fulfill our constitutional obligation.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. HONDA, thank you so very much, and thank you for your lifetime of service, your early years in the Peace Corps in El Salvador, the work that you did there, and, as you said, bringing it home and continuing to serve right up through this day and beyond as you continue to represent the great Silicon Valley of California. So thank you very much for all that you have done over these many years.

You mentioned something that I'm going to turn to very quickly. I was the insurance commissioner, and one of the things that we wanted to do in California, but we couldn't get the legislature to pass, was the Patients' Bill of Rights. Some of this we tried to do with regulations, but the Patients' Bill of Rights is now the law of the land.

When our Republican colleagues came forward with a continuing resolution that was actually a sequestration and a low level of funding and added to it the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, I'm going: Wait a minute. You want to repeal the Patients' Bill of Rights?

I'm going to run through this very quickly.

Children with preexisting conditions, young children at birth or in the early years that have developed some serious medical condition before the Patients' Bill of Rights which now is in effect this day, children cannot be denied coverage, period. There are thousands upon thousands of children across this Nation that find themselves in this situation.

Young adults at the age of 18, prior to the Patients' Bill of Rights—and this has been in effect for more than a year now—at the age of 18, they were off of their parents' coverage and they were out there on their own, often unable, particularly if they were a woman, to be able to get insurance. But the Patients' Bill of Rights allows them to stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26; and there are more than 6.6 million young Americans 18 to 26 that are now on their parents' health coverage as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Women have the right to health care coverage without discrimination for all kinds of things—breast cancer, pregnancy, and other kinds of illnesses that women might get. Prior to the Patients' Bills of Rights and the Affordable Care Act, there was heavy-duty discrimination against women. They couldn't get insurance. If they could, they would pay substantially more. We're talking that half of the population of America, at one time or another, women—actually, more than half—were facing this discrimination, but no longer with the Patients' Bill of Rights.

□ 2045

Seniors have a right to affordable medication and also to an annual wellness visit, which actually has dramatically reduced the ongoing inflation rate in Medicare, bending the curve.

And then finally, this one down here, every American has the right to health care coverage without a limitation on the annual amount that you could spend. A family with a cancer case would blow right through the limitation. They'd be on their own. And this is what led to the enormous number of personal bankruptcies, more than 50 percent of which were caused by health care problems.

So the Patients' Bill of Rights was, according to our Republican colleagues, to be repealed along with all of the Affordable Health Care Act. Needless to say, those of us on the Democratic side said, This is wrong. This is not good for America. It's not good for Americans, individuals, children, or adults. And we fought the fight.

We're not finished with this yet. Although as of today, it appears as though our Republican colleagues have dropped the issue of defunding, delaying, or repealing the Affordable Health Care Act as far as the continuing resolution is concerned.

I will come back. I will cover some of these things again. I would like now to turn to our new colleague from San Antonio, Texas, JOAQUIN CASTRO. Please join us. You have a great background in that city. And you come with an extraordinary reputation, well earned, as a scholar and as a great citizen of San Antonio.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI. And thank you for all of your work and for pointing out the many benefits of the Affordable Care Act, which, as many Americans know, took effect today.

There were so many people that were anxious and excited about getting health care coverage, about comparing prices to see if they might get a lower price for insurance that the Web site actually had glitches, it had problems. But that is a good thing. And in Texas, we know that problem very well. We're the State that has the highest percentage of people that don't have health care coverage at all.

Would you believe that one out of four Texans—25 percent of kids and 25 percent of adults—have no health care coverage at all. Thirty percent of women don't have health care coverage. Thirty-eight percent of Hispanics in Texas don't have health care coverage. And so the fact that the Affordable Care Act and the exchanges kicked off today is a great day for Texas and a great day for Americans.

But as we think about what's going on today—and today has been a very sad day in our country not only because this is the first time in 17 years that our U.S. Government has shut down but because of the way it happened. And I think that, you know,

when people woke up today and they turned on the news or the radio or picked up the newspaper and they saw a government shutdown, the people who usually live their lives, work hard every day, sometimes don't have a lot of time to pay attention to politics, saw those headlines and thought, What are these guys up in Washington doing? What are they up to? And that played into all of the stereotypes about how bad Congress is, about how bad politicians are.

But let's think about how this happened. During the summer, there's a junior Senator from Texas, from my home State that barnstormed the Nation and our State, insisting that we defund what was derisively called ObamaCare, that we get rid of all of the patient protections and all of the great things that you have just described. And he, in fact, said that he would do everything in his power, everything in his power to make sure that that law was defunded.

Now you and I both know that you pass laws, you do budgets, and you also raise the debt ceiling limit, but that those are different things, that you don't hold one hostage to the other. But he insisted and got many of the Tea Party members in the House of Representatives—in fact, he had conference calls with them, had personal meetings with them. His folks were calling out the Speaker of the House on Twitter and on Facebook, when the Speaker thought about being reasonable, passing a clean CR so that we could go about the Nation's business.

And it became clear that this was playing into a pattern that has developed with Republicans since 2010, since the increase in Tea Party Republican members. This is the pattern. Think about the sequester. That came about in 2011 through the Budget Control Act. It mostly came about because there was a lot of pressure by Tea Party Republicans to cut in every single corner of government. And so we got a bad law, the sequester, which I think most people acknowledge now is bad.

But if you will remember, Congressman, when that happened, these Republicans who for years, for years have been staking their careers on cutting government, all of a sudden magically were running away from the fact that they did it, were acting like, Wow, that was never our idea. It was the President who wanted sequester. It was the Democrats who insisted on sequester. When, in fact, for years and years and even more intensely since 2010, they have been demanding that we cut government no matter what. But when it happened, many of them wouldn't claim it. They say, That wasn't us.

Well, let's fast forward now 2 years. The same thing happens with a government shutdown. So the government shuts down as they wanted. And what happens the next morning? Folks come to the floor. They do interviews on television. They give quotes in the newspaper saying, It wasn't us. We've been

saying this the whole time, but it wasn't us. It was the Democrats that did it.

Look, if you're going to advocate for something, if you're going to push for something, then you need to own it, and you need to accept it.

Now I will say, if you look at a lot of the social media sites for Republicans, a lot of those Tea Party supporters are very honest about what they want. I had a chance to read through many of them yesterday. And they said, Shut it down. Shut the government down.

Now, look, there may be a small percentage of Americans who feel that way, who are so frustrated with government, who are so frustrated with American society that they do, in fact, want to shut America down. But the vast majority of both Republicans and Democrats know that that's a horrendous thing.

So what we have today are some errant comments by folks who slipped up politically and said, Yes, we're happy about shutting this thing down. But then you have another group of folks who, even though they voted in lockstep with Senator CRUZ and the Tea Party Republicans, now try to cast aspersions on the folks who tried to stop it, the Democrats. You can't have it both ways. If you advocated for it for years, if this was your strategy, then when it happens, you take responsibility for the results.

Now there's also been a little bit of debate about, well, how do you handle this situation? We know, as I said, that you don't hold the budget hostage to policy. In other words, you don't try to change policy through the budget. We understand that.

So just to crystallize that, I would ask my colleagues, if you think it's okay to not raise the debt ceiling limit or approve a budget because you disagree with public policy, a law that was passed 3 years ago, then I would ask you, should we not approve a budget, as Democrats? Or should we not raise the debt ceiling limit because we believe that there should be a comprehensive immigration reform plan with a path to citizenship?

Now bear in mind, these guys are saying that the Affordable Care Act is upside down in its numbers. In other words, there are probably about 53 percent of Americans saying, quite frankly, that they don't like it right now. More and more are liking it. But they're right on those numbers.

Well, 60 percent of Americans say they want comprehensive immigration reform. Ninety percent of Americans said they wanted background checks. Should we hold out and say, We're not going to raise the debt ceiling limit unless we get universal background checks or we get comprehensive immigration reform? Of course not. And Democrats have acted responsibly. There's a reason that we've not done that. Because we respect this democracy. We respect the Nation. And we're honest with the Nation.

So I hope that as cooler heads prevail that we'll be able to resolve this, that we'll be able to pass a clean CR, and that we will be able to do the people's business in a respectful and honest way.

Thank you, Congressman, very much for the time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. CASTRO, thank you so very, very much. You spoke of your Senator, Senator CRUZ. I suspect in 5 years, you're going to replace him, and I would like that.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I'm happy to hear that.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It's time for us to go back to our East-West Show, which we have done here many, many nights. My colleague from the State of New York, PAUL TONKO, who has represented for 5 years now the area where the Industrial Revolution began, along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers.

Right now we're in a fix here in Washington. The government is shut down. All of the things you've talked about over these many years, about building the American economy, manufacturing, the research that you were responsible for for the State of New York—and it's all shut down.

Mr. TONKO. Right.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Share with us your thoughts if you would, please.

Mr. TONKO. Sure. Well, the gentleman from Texas gave a great run-down of the dynamics that have brought us to this moment.

It's a sad day in this House with a government shutdown. The Republican shutdown of government is something that I think bears great consequences. And we've seen it and heard about it already. I wasn't here for the last such episode, which is about 17 years old in duration, but I do know that hearing from constituents already about concerns for vital services, about furloughing, about the impact on family budgets for our many, many Federal workers is real.

So we need to move forward, I think, in a way that allows us to address a clean CR. People say, Well, what is a clean CR? What is a CR? A continuing resolution allows for a short-term continuation of a Federal budget, absent a negotiated budget.

And I think that we find ourselves in this situation where we require a CR. Hopefully it will be a clean one. No bells and whistles, no attachments. And the desire to attach the Affordable Care Act and to call it on this floor in those discussions, in those debates "a bill" is disingenuous. It's an act. It is a law that was signed into place by the President and that was given constitutional approval when reviewed by the highest Court in the land, the Supreme Court. So let's call it what it is. It's a law.

This is unprecedented in trying to take a law and repeal it as part of a negotiating process to move a budget forward. A budget should be about the math of that budget, about upward/downward adjustments of programs

and putting together a blueprint for whatever—a 3-month, 4-month scenario that will enable the government to be funded and continue to operate. And quickly coming upon the heels of that is a debt ceiling bill that needs, again, approval from Congress to have America pay her bills.

So these are basic fundamental processes that ought not be tainted by political whim and disagreement and discontent with an outcome that is 3 years old now and that found a great threshold date today, October 1, as many people are now allowed to enroll across the country for the purposes of health care coverage—affordable, accessible, quality health care for individuals and families. That was the thematic. That was the mission statement. That was the goal. So we need to go forward. We need to now get out of this shutdown and not enable it to continue for any longer in duration. And we need to make certain that we understand that the need for a CR, a continuing resolution, is because we don't have a budget.

Now when the United States Senate approved its version of a budget, when the House of Representatives—this body—approved its version of a budget, and when the President and his administration offered their fiscal blueprint for the fiscal year, we should have moved forward.

Many of us—yourself, myself—aggressively encouraged the leadership to name the panelists at the conference table. Name the "conferees," as they're dubbed, to the process so that we can put together a budget—balanced, bold—that allows us to do the sort of creative qualities that would reduce the deficit, grow the economy, create a climate for growing jobs, and produce revenues where they're essential so that we cut where we can in order to invest where we must, especially in this innovation economy.

That should have been the order of business for the day. This whole debate, this whole shutdown, the Republican shutdown that happened to become reality this morning at midnight could have been avoided if we had gone forward, named the conferees, named the panelists to the conference table to negotiate out a settlement, recommend to the two houses, get the work done. This economy, this Nation requires that. The individuals, families members across this Nation deserve that sort of certainty, as does the small business community.

□ 2100

That's the business that should have been accomplished; but, instead, we find ourselves requiring a CR. And now, in this painful moment of allowing for the budget to be funded, or a CR to be done, we attach bells and whistles like the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Unnecessary, immoral, in a sense, to hold back a process like this.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might just add to the exposition that you laid out: the

two budget proposals, the Senate and the House budget proposals both passed. The Senate appointed conferees. To this moment, the House has not appointed conferees to the budget conference committee.

Mr. TONKO. And the leader of the minority has named the conferees for the Democrats in the House. So you're right, just about everyone named those individuals that will be part of the team at the conference table, getting work done.

Mr. GARAMENDI. So the Republican leadership refused to establish the conference committee by refusing to name the conferees.

Mr. TONKO. Right. And, again, every effort has been made to advance letters, to speak from the floor, to notice the leadership of our request, our urging, our challenge to name these people. That's the way the business gets done.

It was avoided, for whatever reason, perhaps not believing in your own budget that you put together as a House. Otherwise, why would you not bring it forward?

Why would you not vote on your own budget in a way that would have us at the conference table?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, there you have it. And we have a shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, let us split that time. Would you like to close, or would you like to continue on?

Mr. TONKO. I will just make mention of this, that I think the muddying up, if you will, of a CR, a continuing resolution, first, calling it a bill on the floor several times over is disingenuous. People place trust in us. You should honor that trust, and not, nomenclature-wise, change the outcome here.

We have an act of Congress that was signed into law. This is a law of the land, in this case, to provide for affordable, accessible, quality health care. If you didn't like that result, there were opportunities to change it.

Candidate Romney, Governor Romney, Representative RYAN, as the Vice President, they ran to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The people of this great Nation decided in that Presidential election for the re-election effort of President Obama, that they were going to stay with the President. So that statement was made.

The highest court in the land reviewed it for constitutionality. They approved that, gave it a thumbs-up.

Why are we still dwelling on this situation?

Why are we bogging down the process, where you either defund, deny, repeal, whatever the course may be. We have seen it over and over again, so that 45, 46, 47 votes in a row to repeal were all denied.

When you do the same thing over and over and over again, expecting different results, people have defined that as insanity.

So we have not provided the sort of integrity this process needs. We have not shown the respect to the individuals and families that are automatically showing today, with the very aggressive, very involved activism today to sign up with the Affordable Care Act. We are disregarding that. We're disrespecting that.

And I think the polling that was done, I saw a poll today that said 71 percent of the American public does not believe we should hold up and fold the government, shut down the government because of an effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. So the public is speaking. They're telling us, do it better.

And thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, for the opportunity to join you.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you so very much for joining me once again.

I'm going to wrap this up with a note of sadness. The American Government is shut down. It is shut down because of the conflict that has developed between the Democrats and the Republicans here in the House and on the Senate side.

It's a conflict that didn't have to happen. We could have worked this out in a conference committee, had Speaker BOEHNER chosen to appoint conferees. It didn't take place.

A continuing resolution—the Democrats compromised seriously and accepted a continuing resolution at the sequestration level, far less money than we think is necessary, but we wanted to keep the government running.

We refuse to abandon the Affordable Care Act and the millions upon millions of Americans that have benefited from that and are benefiting today as the exchanges are going into place.

California's had an enormous success, and it will work. And as it works, I think we'll find that those Americans, some 40 million that do not have health insurance, will, in the next months ahead, get their health insurance at an affordable cost. And this is already bending the cost curve for American health care. It's a good thing.

But it's also a very sad day. There is absolutely no reason that this government was shut down, except for the intransigence of our Republican colleagues demanding the repeal of things like the Patients' Bill of Rights, demanding that we go back on a promise that America has tried to have for some 60 years now, providing health insurance to all Americans. We're moving towards that with the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare.

It's a sad day, but it's also a hopeful day. It's a hopeful day because the exchanges are working. There will be computer glitches, and there will be

some error in the mathematics; but across this Nation, the exchanges are working.

And the American public that is uninsured, not the insured, but the uninsured, they're going to the exchanges and they're saying, let me shop; let me shop in a rational market where I can compare prices and quality and providers. They're doing that in California, in New York, and in Texas, all across this Nation.

So it's hopeful. It's a hopeful moment, even though we have spent the last week battling out the fundamental question, Is America going to move forward and stay in business, or is the government going to shut down?

Republicans chose to shut down the government.

Are Americans going to get health care?

The Republicans said no, the Affordable Care Act must be repealed.

The Democrats said no way, no how.

It's in place, folks. The Affordable Care Act is in place, and the exchanges are working, and millions of Americans will find an opportunity to buy insurance in a competitive market, free market, not a government market, but a market structured by government so that the private sector can display its insurance policies, what their price is, what their quality is, which doctors they can go to.

It's a sad day, but it's also a hopeful day.

Mr. Speaker, with our 54 minutes, we thank you for the opportunity to explain this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE GOP DOCTORS CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 54 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, for allowing the House GOP Doctors Caucus to have the leadership hour tonight on this historic day, October 1, the ObamaCare exchange launch date. It's entirely fitting that the Speaker allowed our House GOP Doctors Caucus.

This group, Mr. Speaker, is made up of medical doctors, made up of registered nurses, dentists, hospital administrators, psychologists, optometrists, with over—now, get this, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues—with over 600 years of clinical experience.

Who knows better, in this Chamber of 435, than these 21 men and women who have spent almost their entire professional lives before being elected to the House of Representatives in the health care sector.

So here we are, October 1, ObamaCare exchange launch date, and hearing about malfunctions nationwide. We have received warning signs for months now that ObamaCare

wasn't ready, my colleagues, for prime time.

Now, with exchange malfunctions in more than 30 States on opening day, the best HHS can do is tweet, I'm sorry?

On top of that, after having years to prepare for this disastrous law, the President informed us that we could expect these glitches for months to come.

ObamaCare was a bad law when it was signed 3½ years ago; and now that we know what's in it, I firmly believe it's even worse law today.

Someone trying to receive coverage in the exchange right here in Washington, D.C., reported this today, Mr. Speaker: After waiting on hold for 3 hours and 43 minutes, I was finally able to speak to a representative, who told me she could not help me find a health insurance plan or provide any plan pricing information because, and this is a quote, "the system is down and not currently working at this time."

She recommended I call back in a few days. I guess \$1.329 trillion in taxpayer funds no longer gets you a functional government takeover of health care.

Mr. Speaker, how can the administration expect people to believe that the exchanges are ready and that this bill is ready for prime time, with Americans facing this sort of experience today, October 1, the roll-out date?

Let me just take a moment and maybe play David Letterman. Top reasons why ObamaCare's exchanges aren't ready for prime time, colleagues:

Number one, your data isn't secure. Think about that. In the ObamaCare exchanges, Federal bureaucrats will have unprecedented access to your personal data. Thank the navigators that were hired. They will have not only access to your health care data, but also to your financial data.

And this raises a myriad of privacy questions, which are only further emboldened by the risk of human error. Recently, a Minnesota exchange employee accidentally leaked 2,400 Social Security numbers.

Number two, no eligibility verification to enroll. No eligibility verification to enroll. The Obama administration announced this summer that it will allow individuals to self-attest that he or she meets income requirements to get a tax credit, a subsidy.

Eligibility verification is not only required by the law, which the administration has chosen to ignore again; it ensures that aid reaches the most vulnerable Americans for whom it was intended.

I recently voted for the No Subsidies Without Verification Act, to correct, Mr. Speaker, this reckless policy. That law, that bill that I voted for, it's not law yet because the majority leader in the Senate is putting it in File 13, where he puts every other bill that the Republican House passes.

I'm very pleased that the author of this bill, Representative DIANE BLACK

from Tennessee, a member of the House GOP Doctors Caucus, is with us tonight; and I'll be yielding time to her momentarily.

Number three, Mr. Speaker, software glitches. Across the Nation, further implementation delays have been caused by several glitches in the health exchange software. One of these accounts even strikes at the heart of the law's coverage expansion, making it impossible to determine how much people need to pay for coverage.

Number four, system not prepared for small businesses. The Obama administration recently warned the small businesses, those companies that employ less than 50 people, sometimes maybe 10 or 15, that they won't yet be able to shop for health insurance for their employees through online exchanges, leaving them to rely on snail mail or faxes for at least another month.

Number five, plans advertised on the exchanges, Mr. Speaker are misleading. Early this month it was reported that many insurers, including Florida Blue and Aetna, were concerned that information offered on the exchange sites was misleading and, in some cases, not representative of plans that exist.

Well, I could go on, but at this point I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), my colleague and the author of that bill; and I know she wants to talk about that, Mr. Speaker.

□ 2115

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding. I also thank you for having this tonight and giving us an opportunity to talk about the Patient Affordability Act.

Mr. Speaker, Americans didn't want a government shutdown and they don't want ObamaCare. Because of the Senate Democrats, today they're staring both in the face.

We in the House of Representatives offered the Senate Democrats three bipartisan continuing resolutions that would keep the government open and protect the American people from this onerous mandate and the President's disastrous health care law, only to see them quickly rejected along party lines with little opportunity for debate.

Now ObamaCare and the Senate Democrats' prized government shutdown are here. The reviews are in. They're not good.

Today, millions Americans experienced delays and technical glitches in trying to enroll in ObamaCare exchanges, leading the Associated Press to report that the program is "not working as planned."

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal tried unsuccessfully to apply online for ObamaCare in all 50 States. And on MSNBC, a reporter gave up trying to enroll in ObamaCare after 30 minutes, saying:

If I were signing up for myself, this is where my patience would be exhausted.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is only the beginning. Under ObamaCare's Navigator

program, thousands of unlicensed "in-person assisters" will be tasked with going across the country and propagandizing the President's health care law. They'll have as little as 20 hours of training and no background check, high school diploma, or prior experience required, despite having access to our very personal information, including our names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and tax returns.

But don't worry, says the Obama administration. They'll have a 207-page Navigator Standard Operating Procedures Manual. The size of a college textbook, this is the guide that navigators should be expected to learn in just 20 hours.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've been working my way through this manual, hoping that it would provide these navigators with some insight on our complex health care system. Instead, I'm finding that this manual is filled with lessons like in section 2-2-1, Smiling. Yes, it says, "Smiles are contagious," the manual reads. "Usually, when you smile at somebody, they will smile back at you." The manual goes on to instruct navigators to "nod occasionally" when interacting with consumers and to maintain an "open and inviting" posture.

Addressing security concerns, the manual reminds navigators not to leave Americans' "tax return information on printers and fax machines."

Mr. Speaker, the Navigator program is an open invitation for misuse of taxpayer information. The American people should not have their most sensitive personal information in the hands of people who have not been, at bare minimum, subjected to background checks.

My House Republican colleagues and I remain committed to fighting this law and protecting Americans from widespread fraud and abuse in the ObamaCare Navigator program. The Senate has an open invitation to join us. The question is: When will they?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady from Tennessee.

Let me, colleagues, point out to you this poster that I have on the easel before us. This is the official United States Government Web site to get information about the rollout of the exchanges. And that's today, as we said at the outset of the hour, October 1.

The Web site, healthcare.gov, if you went to it today, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, here's the information you get:

The system is down at the moment. We're working to resolve the issue as soon as possible. Please try again later.

Three-and-a-half years ago, March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—the official name of this law—was signed by the President. It did become the law of the land. I don't think that the name of the law is very appropriate. Patient Protection? I doubt it. Affordable Care Act?

Listen to this: In my home State of Georgia, Mr. Speaker, the Aetna

Health Insurance Company has a number of policyholders. A recent letter was sent to those policyholders, Mr. Speaker. Let me read it, because I think this is so telling:

We're here to help you with your health insurance. We value our customers. We want to help you understand your health plan options for 2014.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is a letter from Aetna Health Insurance to their policyholders.

The Affordable Care Act is changing health insurance. This includes adding new preventive care and essential health benefit requirements.

In other words, mandated. The government is going to tell people and health insurance companies what has to be in the policies.

They go on to say:

The Affordable Care Act also ends medical underwriting. Due to these and other changes, some people will pay more for their health coverage and others less.

In other words, standard rates, whether you have a preexisting condition. You could have heart disease, you could have high blood pressure, you could have diabetes type 2, or you could be a 28-year-old man or woman, healthy, strong, athletic, no bad habits, enjoy the Methuselah gene in your family. And so you're going to pay the same thing that someone does that's 58 years old and with three or four preexisting conditions. Well, that's exactly the case, and that's why Aetna goes on to say to their policyholders:

The Affordable Care Act will affect your health insurance plan. Your current policy will end December 31, 2013. You need to buy a new plan now so that you do not have a gap in coverage on January 1, 2014.

And then they go on to say this, Mr. Speaker:

Here are your buy-in options. Buy a 2013 Aetna plan effective in December. This plan is identical to your current coverage, and it would continue for the next 12 months. Then, you will need to buy a new Affordable Care Act plan in 2015. If you choose this option, please take action by November 25, 2013.

Now, here's your other option, as they point out. Option number two:

Buy a 2014 Aetna Affordable Care Act plan—

"Affordable," I emphasize that again.—effective January 1, 2014. This plan meets all the Affordable Care Act requirements. If we don't hear from you or you don't take any action, we will automatically enroll you into the 2014 Affordable Care plan below.

Now, listen to this, Mr. Speaker. The current plan, the one that they're on, the 2013 plan, Georgia Managed Choice Open Access Value 2500—that's what the plan is called—if you go ahead, as they said, by November 25, 2013, and sign up, you re-up for that plan that you like—and the President said, If you like your plan, you can keep it; remember that one?—then your monthly premium will be \$364.

Your other choice, the 2014 Affordable Care Act plan, Aetna Classic 3500 PD, \$634 a month, Mr. Speaker. Remember, the 2013 plan, I said \$364. If

you buy the affordable care plan mandated by the government in 2014, it's double.

So anybody that thinks that the insurance commissioner, Ralph Hudgens, of the State of Georgia didn't know what he's talking about several months ago when he said that the Affordable Care Act, in some instances—and this is Aetna giving us their information—the premiums are going to go up as much as 100 percent, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we're talking about. We just absolutely cannot afford the Affordable Care Act.

The President assured us that this was paid for and that it was not going to cost more than \$900 billion over 10 years. The CBO now says, Mr. Speaker, that it's at least twice that much in cost.

Look, at midnight on October 1, as you heard my colleagues from the other side of the aisle just a few minutes ago in their leadership hour talking about the Federal Government shutting down, indeed, at midnight on October 1, appropriations for the Federal Government did expire. By law, Congress must agree on a funding measure or the government will shut down.

As Washington has been run by Democrats for the past 5 years, Mr. Speaker, it's become a dysfunctional disaster. Americans expect, and they deserve, their elected officials to work together to find solutions. President Obama and Senate Democrats have drawn red lines and they refuse to negotiate or even talk to those who disagree with them unless, of course, it's President Vladimir Putin of Russia or Hassan Rouhani of Iran.

In fact, House Republicans have passed three continuing resolutions, or temporary spending bills, to keep this government open and to either defund or to delay ObamaCare—which the majority of Americans support. They were against it 3½ years ago; they are against it today; and they support what we are doing in the Republican House of Representatives.

I praise and commend Speaker JOHN BOEHNER and the leadership of ERIC CANTOR and KEVIN MCCARTHY for the strength that they have had in regard to this and for being so inclusive for every single member of our caucus.

□ 2130

All of these proposals, Mr. Speaker, that were submitted to the Senate were rejected. They were rejected by HARRY REID and Senate Democrats.

This morning, in the wee hours of this morning, the Senate voted 54-46 against coming to the negotiating table with House Republicans. I'll refer my colleagues to this poster. I would like for all of you to take a close look at this poster because this says it all in these hashtags: Let's talk. If the President can talk to Putin and the President can talk to Rouhani, why in the world can't the President talk to conferees in the House of Representatives, just sit down and talk?

You've rejected not one, not two, not three, but four of our proposals without even a response, without even a counterproposal. And what the Speaker has said is: Let's talk. I have appointed—and he has appointed the best and brightest minds on the Republican side of this Chamber to discuss this issue with the conferees. But Mr. Speaker, HARRY REID, the majority leader, has refused to come to the table, has refused to appoint conferees.

In fact, look at hashtag number two in regard to what we have been asking as just some compromise in regard to passing a CR and keeping this Federal Government open. We have nobody on our side of the aisle—nobody, Mr. Speaker—wanted this government to shut down. But here is what was rejected by the House, by the Senate Democrats, by HARRY REID, the majority leader.

Look at this second hashtag: Fairness for all. Fairness for all. If the President, Mr. Speaker, can say to large employers across this country who went to him and lobbied—big lobbying shops with the ability to do this, that said, look, we're not ready; January 1, 2014 does not give us time to prepare the documents that we need to prepare that are required by the Affordable Care Act—and the President, by Executive order, granted them a year delay with no fines, no penalties, no nothing. Everything the same as it was prior to the passage of ObamaCare.

So we say: Fairness for all. Why not do that same thing for middle America, for the men and women that are struggling, working every day, sometimes two jobs, to support their families. You're going to say that for them, no waiver, no special treatment, no fairness. If you don't have a health insurance policy—and one that is dictated to you by the Federal Government in regard to what it has to entail—then we're going to fine you \$95 if you're an individual or \$295 if you're a family. That was one of the things that we asked of the Senate in regard to extending the CR, fairness for all—summarily rejected by HARRY REID.

Then the last point: no special treatment. You know, colleagues, Mr. Speaker, you know exactly what I'm talking about here. Members of Congress, by law—this was put in on the Senate side. But by law, Members of Congress and their staff no longer, come January 1, will be in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan. They will be part of ObamaCare. They will have to get their health insurance in the exchanges. By law, they're not eligible, unless their salary allows it—maybe some entry-level staff members would be eligible for a subsidy, but certainly no Member of Congress.

Well, the people in Georgia, the people in my district, when they found out about that, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, they were absolutely livid. This is a fairness issue. This is absolutely something that anyone can see is wrong.

We should be treated—we, the democratic majority, not we Republicans—but Congress enacted this law, and to say that we should get a dispensation from it and then cram it down the throats of the American people who never wanted it in the first place, that is grossly, grossly unfair.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I see that I've been joined by another colleague of mine in the House GOP Doctors Caucus. This is the gentlewoman from North Carolina, a registered nurse. Her husband is a general surgeon. She is a great Member of this body, and I'm proud to yield to Representative RENEE ELLMERS.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you so much to my distinguished colleague from Georgia. This is such an important day. We have reached day one of the ObamaCare exchange being up.

If you look at the chart that we have up, very similar, Congressman GINGREY, to that same chart that you are showing, it is what North Carolina is seeing today. For any North Carolinian who is going on the Web site, it is not ready for prime time.

I rise today to talk about the failures of ObamaCare and why we have persisted for so long to remove this terrible law. It is law, we get that. We understand it. It was upheld by the Supreme Court. However, it is a bad law. It is bad for America, it is bad for the economy. It is bad for health care. And as it is right now, it will not be improved. There's no way that we can change it, that we can improve it at this point.

The exchanges being up, 32 States that are showing the same screen to those who are going online, those who have been promised this exchange so that they can check and see what kind of coverage they will have available to them, this is what they are seeing.

Coupled with the government shutdown—which we all tried to avoid with every effort possible—there again, the Senate not cooperating with us, the President staying committed to ObamaCare going forward when we know the structure is simply not in place.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I ran for office a couple of years ago. I was elected in 2010. My whole goal has been to repeal ObamaCare because it is not only, again, devastating to the American people, to our economy, but to health care itself. When you have devoted your life to something and you see that it is just being taken apart in front of you, you know that you have to act. Nevertheless, here we are, day one of ObamaCare, day one failure.

For 3½ years, countless administration officials have testified before us in subcommittee hearings in Energy and Commerce over and over and over again. The question has been posed to them: Will the exchanges be ready October 1, 2013? Repeatedly, consistently we heard from administrators of those agencies: Yes, we are right online; everything is moving completely the way

that we would envision it to move. Yeah, there may be some glitches here and there, but we are ready to go October 1. And this is what the American people are seeing.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentlelady will yield to me just for a second, I will yield right back to her.

Even the Hispanic language Web site is not available to these people that need to get that vital information. The Web site for the Hispanic is down.

Mrs. ELLMERS. You know, and that gets to the greater point that the gentleman points out. This objective, when President Obama put it forward—I go back to the summer of 2009. I was not in any position to ever considering running for office; working as a nurse with my husband in his general surgery practice, trying to take care of the patients back home. When we were learning about what the President was proposing, we said, you know what, we just can't simply sit back and watch this happen to us, we have to speak out. Because there were many in our medical community who said, you know, this is wrong, this is wrong. We know that there are reforms that are needed. We know that we have so much to fix in health care. But this approach, this government takeover of health care, is only going to lead to socialized medicine. We know that. And that's not a winning health care system, not when you have the best health care system in the world.

So we did, we started speaking out. We got on the road, we talked to people, we explained to them how dangerous this was. The very conversations I was having then are being realized today. The fears that we were discussing, the issues that we were discussing about where this would take us in health care, are now being realized.

The quote that's on the chart, "The system is down at the moment. We are working to resolve this issue as soon as possible. Please try again later." That is what the people who are in need of health care, that's what they're reading. And for the hardworking taxpayers of America, that is what you're paying for, a complete and total failure of the Federal Government.

We agree, the system is down. That is why we fought so hard for a delay. That is why we felt that that reform was a very essential piece moving forward. That is why we're fighting today for every American to have the same health care coverage, the same options that we in Congress have.

Every American should be treated fairly. Every American should have the same opportunities as everyone else. You cannot just simply hand out waivers to those that you pick and choose.

You know, when big businesses have the ability now to have that mandate put to the side for a year, why does the individual—the individual who needs it more than anyone, the one who's going to that site looking for health care, they can't even be helped by that right now. Meanwhile, we're telling them,

oh, and by the way, you're going to pay for this.

If you're a young adult male in North Carolina, your premiums are going to quadruple. If you're a young woman, your health care premiums are going to triple. That is who is going to pay for this. And the system is down; it isn't even working.

As my colleagues and I have been saying over and over again, this law is not ready for prime time, and it never will be. It is unworkable. It will continue to remain so. And for months, again, HHS, IRS, CMS, all of these agencies have repeatedly said that when today comes, October 1, it would be up and running.

I do want to share with you just one of many, but one phone call we received today from one of my constituents, Rachael Burt from Fuquay Varina, North Carolina. She called our office and spoke to one of my staff. And she was emotional, she was concerned, and she was afraid. She said: "My husband's premium is going up 155 percent. We are shocked. I am on maternity leave, and I am afraid to know how much mine will go up. I'm sure the letter is on its way though."

In anticipation of this, this poor woman is waiting to receive that information. And what she said was: "ObamaCare seems to be nothing but a punishment on those who are trying to do the right thing." Rachel, I can't agree more. That's what the problem is here. That's why we're working so hard to fix it.

We will remain committed to this issue. We will continue to pursue a delay. And by the way, we will continue to pursue avenues for health care coverage that really are truly affordable, that really do give more coverage to Americans, that really are patient centered, such as the RSC plan, the American Health Care Reform Act that Members of our own conference worked on—eight Members to be exact—to give the American people a choice other than this failure on October 1 of ObamaCare.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina and the very fine points that she makes in regard to this law.

□ 2145

And the problems that the American people are facing here—as I say, 3½ years after enactment of the law—Mr. Speaker, I can't imagine it taking me 3½ years to get something right and not have enough time.

But just listen to this: it does not instill confidence that the administration was scheduled to certify the security of the health IT system—information technology—people's health information—just hours before millions of Americans are expected to upload their personal information—health care information, financial information. That is a pretty scary prospect, my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to think just hours ahead of time.

What is more important than one's personal health care information? Not even their financial information. Because we are talking about life and death issues here, Mr. Speaker. It has given waivers and delays to politically favored friends, but left the rest of America to bear the full weight of the law. That is what we were talking about in this poster that I want my colleagues, once again, to focus on in regard to "fairness for all"—"fairness for all." We are not getting it.

To quell the public's growing discontent, the President is actually now marketing efforts to protect families from this looming train wreck as "crazy." The American people face costly and onerous mandates, small businesses struggle to keep up with the rising costs, doctors—my colleagues, my former colleagues in Georgia where I practiced for 26 years obstetrics and gynecology in Cobb County, Marietta, Georgia, the heart of the Eleventh Congressional District—doctors frustrated with the challenges of a government-run health care system, and the security of America's health and financial information is unknown.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the doctors know, they know this is just a first salvo. They understand that the intent was to have a single-payer system, not unlike the UK or Canada or Australia. That is what the leading Democrats—the Democrats that have been in this body for 20, 30, 40, and in some cases 50 years—have been trying to literally force-feed to the American people who absolutely don't want it.

Add October 1 to the list of dates on which the Obama administration pretends an unworkable health care scheme is precisely what the American people were promised—an admission not yet made, but inevitable nonetheless. Mark down October 1, 2013, as a day in infamy, as a day in infamy.

This behavior, Mr. Speaker, is not what Americans deserve, and it is a reminder that we need new leadership. We need new leadership in the White House and in the Senate. We need a new Senate majority leader. After 2014, I think we are going to have one. House Republicans will continue working day and night to return the United States Government to business as usual—to business as usual.

I oppose a government shutdown. As I said at the outset of the hour, Mr. Speaker—as I conclude our time—I oppose a government shutdown, and I am fighting, yes, to repeal ObamaCare, as I have for the last 4 years.

In the meantime—in the meantime—I do agree with President Obama that implementation of this flawed and disastrous health care law must be delayed, it must be delayed. However, Mr. Speaker, the President has only delayed ObamaCare for his political friends—a few privileged Americans and big corporations.

That is where we disagree. If we cannot repeal the law, I believe that it must be delayed for all Americans. We

have spent the last 50 minutes, Mr. Speaker, talking about that, explaining to our colleagues in this Chamber and to the American people that this law is not and will never be ready for prime time.

It was flawed from the very beginning. Has it brought down the cost of health care? Is there anything in the law about medical liability reform that the President promised? Has it fulfilled the pledge from the President of the United States that "if you like your health insurance, you can keep it, nothing has to change"? Has it fulfilled the mandate that it has strengthened Medicare?

How, Mr. Speaker, can a law strengthen Medicare when \$750 billion was taken out of that program for our precious seniors—our parents and our grandparents—that are struggling, it is struggling. Statistics show that if we don't make some changes by as early as 2016 that claims will not be honored. When that happens and when we continue to cut reimbursement to our providers, there will be no primary care doctors to take care of our most precious seniors.

So these are the things that from the very beginning you are robbing Peter to pay Paul, you are taking money out of one entitlement program to create a whole new entitlement program—I guess you could call it, Mr. Speaker: Medicare for all from cradle to grave. But really what it is is national health insurance.

We are talking about health care in this country is one-sixth of our economy. Do we want the Federal Government—think about it, ladies and gentlemen of the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle, think about it—do you want the Federal Government, that entity that runs Amtrak, that entity that is responsible for the U.S. Postal Service, do you want that entity to run one-sixth of the economy, and that one-sixth dealing with life and death and the health of a Nation? No, no, Mr. Speaker. We don't want that; the American people don't want that, just voted loud and clear.

It just astounds me that this Democratic majority in the Senate and this President won't even agree to basic fairness issues, like I have here on this poster, won't even agree to go to conference with the conferees that our great Speaker JOHN BOEHNER has appointed to just sit down and talk. The President goes all over the world talking to people that I wouldn't talk to. In a New York minute I wouldn't talk to them; I wouldn't trust them. But we can trust each other.

The men and women in this House on both sides of the aisle, the men and women in the Senate on both sides of the aisle, the leadership, these are honorable people. And to just stand in the way of sitting down and having a conversation and saying, look, you disagreed with our "fairness for all" issue; you disagreed with our "no special treatment." Please let's talk.

That is what Speaker BOEHNER is saying to Leader REID. I think, Mr. Speaker, I think if we do that, I think if we do that, we can solve this problem and move forward with the financial security of this Nation.

We are at a physical cliff. We owe \$17 trillion. On October 17, the Treasury says we are going to have to borrow another God knows how much. Is it \$1 trillion, is it \$2 trillion, is it \$3 trillion? I don't know. But we can't kick the can down the road anymore. This can won't even move, it is so crunched up.

It is time for us to come together, as the Speaker says, and let's talk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1348. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 2, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3163. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical, Physical Readiness, Training, and Access Authorization Standards for Protective Force Personnel [Docket No.: DOE-HQ-2012-0002] (RIN: 1992-AA40) received September 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3164. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Human Reliability Program: Technical Amendments (RIN: 1992-AA44) received September 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3165. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting a report on New Federal Maritime Commission proposed systems of records subject to the Privacy Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3166. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC803) received September 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3167. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC771) received September 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3168. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Abbreviated Framework [Docket No.: 13032296-3642-02] (RIN: 0648-BD10) received September 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3169. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure of the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 120109034-2171-01] (RIN: 0648-XC782) received September 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3170. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Reef Fish Management Measures [Docket No.: 120907427-3652-02] (RIN: 0648-BC51) received September 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3171. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Patapsco River, Northwest and Inner Harbors; Baltimore, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0811] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3172. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone for Fireworks Display, Baltimore Harbor; Baltimore, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0529] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3173. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lafourche Bayou, Larose, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0243] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3174. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hudson River, Troy and Green Island, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0257] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3175. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Escape to Miami Triathlon, Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0688] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19,

2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3176. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; North Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0755] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3177. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hamilton Standard Division and Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation Propellers [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0262; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-13-AD; Amendment 39-17548; AD 2013-16-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3178. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eclipse Aerospace, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0448; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-007-AD; Amendment 39-17542; AD 2013-16-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3179. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0207; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-071-AD; Amendment 39-17530; AD 2013-15-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3180. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Port Limits of Indianapolis, IN [Docket No.: USCBP-2012-0006] received September 16, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3181. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Branded Prescription Drug Fee; Guidance for the 2014 Fee Year [Notice 2013-51] received September 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3182. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of Treasury Regulations Pursuant to Section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act [TD 9637] (RIN: 1545-BK27) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3183. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Conforming Changes to Regulations Regarding Medicare Determinations and Income-Related Monthly Adjustment to Amounts to Medicare Part B Premiums [Docket No.: SSA-2012-0011] (RIN: 0960-AH47) received September 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. RADEL, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HANNA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COOK, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. JONES, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. AMASH, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 3225. A bill making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 3226. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 3227. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. JORDAN):

H.R. 3228. A bill to establish the Office of the Constitutional Advocate to provide advocacy in cases before courts established by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 3229. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.J. Res. 70. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.J. Res. 71. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 72. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 3225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law" In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 3226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 3227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 3228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3229.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.J. Res. 70.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law" In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States" Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.J. Res. 71.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropria-

tions made by Law" In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States" Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 72.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law" In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States" Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 342: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 541: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 609: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 647: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 685: Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 846: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 905: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1074: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1186: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1250: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1263: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1317: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1354: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1413: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1590: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1779: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1830: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1844: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1856: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1861: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1982: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2213: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 2300: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 2485: Mrs. NEGRETTE McLEOD.

H.R. 2502: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2504: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 2539: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 2607: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2697: Mr. COHEN and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2800: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2809: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 2874: Ms. MOORE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2881: Mr. CARTRIGHT.

H.R. 2894: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 3067: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 3076: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 3111: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3128: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3131: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3132: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 3137: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3140: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3152: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3160: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. FLORES, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 3166: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3170: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 3215: Mr. POLIS and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3223: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HOLT, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. KIND, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3224: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. ESTY, Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. GABBARD.

H. Res. 147: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 327: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. LANKFORD.

H. Res. 353: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 356: Mr. CRAMER.

H. Res. 365: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FARR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 70, the National Park Service Operations, Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 71, the District of Columbia Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 72, the Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.